

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
JANUARY 1, 2013 through MARCH 31, 2013

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 4TH quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/02/13 5pm : 30

Springfield Police need your help finding a woman they believed robbed a beauty supply store. These are store surveillance photos of the robbery which took place the day after Christmas. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that a woman carrying a knife walked into the Sally Beauty Supply on Boston Road around 6:30 p.m. and demanded all the "twenties and tens" from the register. The woman took the money from the register, and got away in a dark gray late model Nissan Maxima. If you have any information, you are asked to call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at (413) 787-6355, or you can anonymously "text-a-tip."

News 01/04/13 5pm : 30

There's been an arrest following a house fire in Chicopee. State Fire Marshal spokeswoman Jennifer Mieth told 22News 24-year old Joel Labonte has been arrested and charged with setting fire to this home on Lukasik Street. The home sustained extensive damage. Mieth said Labonte didnt officially live at the house, but stayed there from time to time. No one was home at the time of the fire.

News 01/04/13 12pm : 30

Two men are still on the run...after a home invasion in Springfield. According to Sgt. John Delaney the suspects were wearing masks and were armed when they broke into the home at 31 Fenwick Street, Thursday night. One of the men also pistol-whipped a woman inside. She was treated at Mercy Medical Center for head injuries and later released. Neighbors say they were shocked to hear that an incident like this took place in their quiet neighborhood.

News 01/04/13 12pm : 30

Chicopee police have arrested a man and a woman suspected of robbing the Walgreens Pharmacy on James Street early Thursday morning. Police Lieutenant Mark Higgins told 22News 25 year-old John Labelle of Holyoke and 22 year-old Amanda Bostic of Chicopee are charged with unarmed robbery. No weapon was used when the pharmacy was robbed around 12:40 Thursday morning. An unknown amount of cash was taken from the store.

News 01/06/13 9am : 30

Connecticut police are searching for two women who escaped from a correctional institution Saturday night. The Department of Correction said these women, Melissa Riley and Jessica

Rivera walked away from the York Correctional Institution in Niantic around 8:30 last night. The facility was placed in lock down and a full scale search is underway. Anyone with information about the inmates is asked to notify state or local police.

News **01/06/13** **9am** **: 30**

Palmer police are looking for a man who robbed a post office. Palmer Police Lt. John Janulewicz told 22News the man came into the Thorndike Post Office, threatened the clerk with a knife, then took the money and ran. The man was wearing a grey mask with a grey and white hoodie. The clerk described the man as being about 5'7. The Postal Service has offered a reward for the man's arrest. If you have any information you asked to call the Palmer Police Department or the US Postal Inspection Service at the numbers on your screen.

News **01/07/13** **6pm** **: 30**

No bail for a man accused of setting fire to a two family home in Springfield on Christmas Eve. Lorenzo Gaines pleaded guilty to arson charges in connection to the fire on Northampton Avenue. It left six people homeless. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News investigators found that the fire had been set in four different places in the house. Investigators also suspect that three days prior to the Northampton Avenue fire, Gaines had allegedly tried to set a fire on Worthington Street. Gaines next hearing is on January 14th.

News **01/07/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police found the body of 57-year-old Norma Perez inside her home at 17 Saab Court Sunday afternoon during a "well-being" check. Rosa also lived at the same address. A friend of the victim told 22news he was shocked when he found out who the suspect was.

News **01/07/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A man accused of carjacking, then stabbing a Springfield taxi driver has now been charged with killing his own mother. 41 year-old Luis Rosa of Springfield was ordered held without right to bail following his arraignment on Murder and other charges this afternoon in Springfield District Court. He was arrested this morning for allegedly stabbing a cab driver and then stealing and crashing the cab. The cab driver is expected to be okay.

News **01/07/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Police in Connecticut say they've captured two inmates who escaped from the York Correctional Institution. 30-year-old Melissa Riley and 34-year-old Jessica Rivera were housed in a minimum security section that is not entirely fenced in. Guards noticed they were missing Saturday night during a walk back from the gym. Riley and Rivera were captured in Hartford on Sunday night and are now charged with escape and are being held on \$500,000 bail.

News **01/08/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police detectives are trying to figure out who broke into a Dave's Soda and Pet Food City store in Springfield and stole five snakes and two geckos. Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that before 3:30 Saturday morning, someone had broken through a window on the side of the Carew Street store. The thief or thieves then allegedly took two laptop computers and several aquarium filters, as well as the seven reptiles: If you have any information, you are asked to call Springfield Detective Bureau at (413) 787-6355.

News **01/09/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A woman accused of stealing more than \$14,000 dollars from the former Roger Putnam Vocational Technical High School pleaded not guilty. Sherry Suber was arraigned in Springfield District Court this morning. She is one of two people that were charged following an audit into the finances of the high school. Suber is accused of pocketing money she was supposed to be putting in the city's bank account. A second theft suspect, former Putnam Teacher Ann Berry, is accused of a separate, but similar scheme. She is scheduled to be arraigned next week.

News **01/09/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Westfield have arrested a man they say may be responsible for a series of car and home break-ins. A resident here on Devon Terrace saw a man breaking into a home. They called the police and Christopher Moll was arrested. The police say he may be responsible for break-ins in both Westfield and West Springfield. At least 7 break-ins have been reported in Westfield since January 1st, both homes and cars. The break-ins have happened in broad daylight. People told 22News it's important to keep a close eye on your neighborhood.

News **01/09/13** **11pm** **: 30**

People breaking in to houses during the day and getting away with whatever they can carry. Police are now asking residents to report any stranger or any suspicious car. Since New Year's Day, Westfield police have received at least 7 reports of house break-in, an alarming trend for many parents in the area. So far Westfield police arrested one person who may be responsible for break-in in Westfield and West Springfield. Westfield Police arrested Christopher Moll after receiving a call from a neighbor. That neighbor saw Moll trying to break into one of these houses on Devon Terrace, and Police Captain McCabe told 22News that's exactly what all residents should do. Call the police immediately if they see any strangers in their neighborhoods. Always lock the doors at night, especially. Even in the daytime, you never know. Somebody might walk in. It's a fact of life right now. You lock up your houses. This is the society that we live in, so things have changed in Westfield over the years. Report any suspicious vehicle, don't know what make or model, but looking for a car that may belong to Moll.

News **01/10/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police Officer Eleni Mendez was arrested in Somers, Connecticut on Tuesday during a domestic disturbance. She's the same officer who was injured during a fight outside a bar in Springfield in November. Sgt John Delaney told 22news that Mendez is considered injured on duty and has not returned to work since suffering a severe concussion trying to break up a fight at Fat Cats in Springfield in November. According to Connecticut State Police, on Tuesday Officer Mendez damaged a car. The police report states that a woman made an unannounced visit to Mendez's home in Somers and allegedly caused a disturbance in the driveway. Mendez and another relative reportedly smashed the car with a shovel. All three people involved were arrested.

News **01/10/13** **6pm** **: 30**

US Marshals say they had to work to free a fugitive drug suspect who they say got stuck while hiding under a sink inside an Agawam apartment. According to a news release sent to 22News, they arrested 23 year-old Tyler Wimberley of Springfield at his girlfriend's Feeding Hills apartment this morning. Wimberley was wanted for cocaine possession and conspiracy charges. He was found hiding in the cabinets under the kitchen sink and ended-up getting stuck there. Wimberley will be arraigned at the US District Court in Springfield.

News **01/10/13** **6pm** **: 30**

The two suspects arrested for a robbery at a McDonald's Restaurant in Palmer were arraigned in Palmer District Court today. Chief Robert Frydryk told 22News that 24 year-old Levi Jack of Monson and 23 year-old Sabrina Smith of Petersham were arrested Wednesday afternoon at Jack's home. According to police the suspects were wearing ski masks and were both armed with large hunting knives during the Robbery early Wednesday morning. One worker was injured in the incident.

News **01/11/13** **6pm** **: 30**

An undercover sting by New Hampshire and Massachusetts State Police found a marijuana operation in Northampton. Undercover officers acted as prospective buyers to coordinate the delivery of 10 pounds of marijuana to Manchester. Rodney Sinclair and Henry Pacheco, both 47 and from Northampton, showed up at a motel to make the delivery; they were arrested with a 16 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated \$56,000 dollars.

News **01/11/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Prison inmate Derick Maldonado will spend another four to five years in prison for sending letters containing a mysterious white powder to the Hampden County Hall of Justice. Back in September of 2011, Maldonado sent two letters with threatening messages and a white powder to the DA's office and a superior court judge. A hazardous materials team was called in and part of the building was blocked-off. It turned out the powder was only an ingredient used in soap. Maldonado will also have to pay nearly \$6,000 dollars in restitution.

News **01/11/13** **5am** **: 30**

A man accused of breaking into an apartment in Holyoke to escape from police was arrested on Thursday afternoon. Narcotics detectives say they were chasing 24-year-old Justin Stack of South Hadley through the apartment building at 173-177 Elm Street. Stack allegedly ran through an apartment to get away. He was arrested while running down a fire escape. Police say Stack had 281 bags of heroin on him 8 baggies of cocaine and about a third of an ounce of marijuana.

News **01/11/13** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield Police say a pellet gun has been used to shoot out the windows of at least 30 vehicles parked on Springfield streets. The vandalism took place as recently as yesterday. Sgt. John Delaney says some witnesses reported seeing a dark Ford Explorer driving near one of the incidents.

News **01/12/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A raid in Holyoke led to three arrests this week. The investigation began after several complaints of foot traffic to and from an apartment at 463 Appleton Street. Through a search warrant police found crack cocaine and oxycodone.

News **01/13/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A man, who allegedly tried to cash a stolen lottery ticket in Enfield, Connecticut last week, may be a link to the theft of 150 lottery tickets in Suffield last month. Now the Police need your help to find the man. Suffield Police Officer Justin Fuller gave 22News this surveillance camera image of the man who reportedly tried to cash the stolen lottery ticket at the Enfield Liquor Warehouse. Officer Fuller said 150 tickets had been stolen during a burglary at Sam's Food store in Suffield. If you can identify this man, contact the Suffield Police Department 1-860-668-3870.

News **01/14/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Chicopee Police are looking for a suspect wanted in connection with two armed robberies early this morning. According to Chicopee Police Detectives the suspect, dressed in all black and wearing a mask, showed a gun and took money from the 7-Eleven on Granby Road around 1:30 this morning. They believe the same suspect held up the FL Roberts on Memorial Drive around 5:30. The suspect is described as a light skinned man, 5' 8" tall and weighing about 175lbs. If you have any information, please contact the Chicopee Police Detective Bureau.

News **01/14/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have one suspect in custody and are looking for another in a home invasion in Sixteen Acres last night. Sgt John Delaney told 22newsPolice charged Thomas Marrero with home invasion and refusing to stop for police. According to Delaney, two men wearing

hooded sweatshirts broke into a home at the Colonial Estates Apartments on Beacon Circle shortly before midnight last night. One victim was hit on the head with a handgun and items were taken from the home. Later, police pulled over an SUV in connection with the robbery. They arrested Marrero, but another suspect got away.

News **01/16/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Chicopee believe a man they caught robbing the Granby Road 7-Eleven store this morning, is also behind three other robberies in the city this week. Lt. Mark Higgins told 22News that 25-year-old Robert Pelletier of Holyoke was arrested just after 5:30 am. Police linked Pelletier to three other robberies this week, including one on Monday at the same 7-Eleven store one at F-L Roberts on Memorial Drive, and another at the Center Street Subway restaurant, Tuesday night.

News **01/16/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a man accused of four separate armed robberies over the last week. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delay told 22News that David Newson robbed the United Bank on State Street around 2:45 this afternoon. Sgt. Delaney says Newson is also believed to be responsible for the armed robbery of the Starbucks on East Columbus Avenue this morning and two separate armed robberies of the Subway on Main Street, one last night, the other this past Saturday. Newsom is expected to be charged with those crimes later tonight.

News **01/16/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Springfield have released the identity of city's second homicide victim this year. The shooting took place just after 6 this morning outside 64 Monmouth Street. Officers found 42-year-old Jimmie Acevado of Springfield laying on the ground with multiple gunshots wounds. He was taken by ambulance to Baystate Medical Center where he later died. Police still will not say if they have any suspects, but Sgt. John Delaney told 22News they're following leads.

News **01/17/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Southwick Police are looking for a suspect wanted for a violent armed robbery at a convenience store. Lt. David Ricardi told 22News that the clerk at the Pride Station on College Highway was attacked by a man as he opened the store around 6 this morning. Lt. Ricardi said the man hit the clerk in the face with a gun, breaking the victim's nose. Ricardi said that the suspect drove off into Granby, Connecticut. There's no description of the suspect and no other information is available.

News **01/17/13** **4:30am** **: 30**

The Springfield Police are searching for three men seen running after gunshots were fired. Just before 1:30 this morning, approximately 9 gunshots were fired in the area of 66 Pendleton Avenue. The police confirmed the gunshots via their recording of the shot spotter

activation system. Captain Larry Brown told 22News no one was hurt. Witnesses reported three men wearing red hoodies and black jackets were seen running South on King Street toward Walnut and then toward Central Street. If you have any information call the Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or you can anonymously text-a-tip.

News **01/18/13** **5pm** **: 30**

A flashlight apparently helped lead Springfield police to the arrest of a suspect in a grocery store break-in. Captain Larry Brown told 22News that at around 12:30 this morning, the burglar alarms inside the Sweet Life Foods store on Avocado Street started going off. Police were already in the area and saw three suspects. They reportedly led police on a chase down toward the Connecticut River. Sgt John Delaney told 22news that one suspect Miguel Rivera had a flashlight in his hand. All the officers had to do was follow the light. Police are still looking for the other two suspects.

News **01/18/13** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are trying to locate two people who allegedly broke into a Springfield grocery store. Captain Larry Brown told 22News that at around 12:30 this morning, the burglar alarms inside the Sweet Life Foods store on Avocado Street went off. Police were in the area and saw the suspects, who led police on a chase down toward the waterfront. One person was caught and arrested. They're still looking for two others. A description wasn't available by news time.

News **01/18/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A postal worker is accused of stealing prescription drugs being sent through the mail. Holyoke Police Lt. Matthew Moriarty told 22News that police arrested 33 year old Daniel Jankowiak of South Hadley Friday while working at the Holyoke Post Office on Dwight Street. Police found several pieces of mail, which did not belong to Jankowiak, among his belongings. Jankowiak has been charged with trafficking a class "A" substance, oxycodone, and receiving stolen property.

News **01/18/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke Police have found what they believe is the getaway car in a convenience store holdup this afternoon. A few minutes after someone held up the Dairy Mart on Dwight Street, officers found a car about a mile away on Franklin Street. Police Lt. David Fournier told 22News, the gunman forced the Dairy Mart clerk to give him all the money he had. The thief then escaped in the car that might be the same one they located just a few minutes later. Police are still looking for him.

News **01/18/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Southampton Police are searching for the man who robbed the Rite Aid Pharmacy on College Highway this morning. Southampton Police say an employee reported being robbed just after the store opened. The suspect said he had a gun and demanded drugs. He got away with an unknown amount of oxycodone pills.

News **01/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police are still searching for whoever robbed a troop of Girl Scouts this weekend. A cadet troop of 11-and-12-year-old girls and two adults were selling Girl Scout Cookies at the Wal-Mart in Northampton when a man stole the cash box from their booth. The father of one of the girls ran after the thief who jumped in a car. The parent's hand got stuck in the car's window and he was dragged across the parking lot. He was taken to Cooley Dickinson Hospital, but he is home now.

News **01/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Amherst crime lab chemist Sonja Farak will be arraigned tomorrow on drug and evidence tampering charges. Police arrested the 35-year-old Northampton woman over the weekend. She's charged with tampering with evidence at the crime lab on the U-Mass Amherst campus. Farak is also charged with drug possession. Prosecutors say evidence suggests she stole drugs that had been tested. The District Attorney's office is wants to see if Farak handled evidence in any of their older cases. A chemist at a Boston lab was accused of faking test results last year, compromising thousands of criminal cases.

News **01/21/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have released the identity of the Springfield teenager who was shot and killed early yesterday. 19-year-old Reshawn Robbins of Ashley Street was shot on Central Street just before 3 o'clock Sunday morning. The Springfield Police Homicide Squad is investigating. Anyone with any information is urged to contact the Detective Bureau at 787-6355, or you may anonymously "text-a-tip." This marks the city's third murder in three weeks.

News **01/21/13** **5am** **: 30**

A 17-year-old boy was shot and killed in Springfield on Sunday morning, the city's third murder in three weeks. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News it happened around 2:50am on Central Street in the Six Corners neighborhood. Police aren't releasing the boy's name yet. A separate shooting happened just two hours earlier around 12:45 Sunday morning. Lt. Henry Gagnon told 22news it happened on the 100 block of Stafford Street. A 23 year old man was shot several times. He was taken to the hospital but his current condition isn't known.

News **01/21/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield firefighters say a fire at a vacant building on Locust Street tonight was deliberately set. Aide to the fire commissioner Dennis Leger told 22News it happened just before 6

tonight at 252 Locust Street. Firefighters were able to quickly put it out, but it's becoming a scary trend in the neighborhood. Just this past Tuesday Springfield firefighters put out another fire at a vacant building just a few doors down at 258 Locust Street. There are several large brick buildings on the street; while these two where the fires were set are vacant, several others are occupied. Leger said the cause of that fire Tuesday also looked suspicious.

News **01/22/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police tell 22News three masked men who tried to rob a restaurant ran away empty handed because they couldn't figure out how to open the cash register. A worker saw that one of the men had a gun when they walked into the Peking House restaurant on Liberty Street around eight last night. She ran out the back and called police. Police said the thieves couldn't figure out how to open the cash drawer so they took off. Police searched the neighborhood but couldn't find the suspects.

News **01/22/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Sonja Farak, the woman accused of tampering with drug evidence in an Amherst state crime lab was in court today. Farak of Northampton pleaded not guilty to all charges during arraignment in Eastern Hampshire County District Court. The 35-year-old is a chemist at the Massachusetts State Crime Lab in Amherst. She's facing charges of tampering with evidence and possessing drugs. She was ordered held on five thousand dollars bail, with a number of conditions including she remain drug-free and have no contact with lab employees or witnesses. Farak is due back in court in February.

News **01/22/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Faustino Diaz of Springfield was order held without right to bail in connection with the killing of a 90 year-old woman in a 22 year-old unsolved case. Diaz pleaded "not guilty to murder and rape charges this morning. Police arrested him yesterday, just hours after the 22nd anniversary of the murder. 90 year-old Myrtle Marrett was found beaten to death in her apartment on January 20, 1991. Marrett lived in an elderly housing complex on Union Street in Springfield. According to Mastroianni, DNA evidence played a key roll in the investigation.

News **01/23/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Two Franklin County men are being held on charges they stole nearly \$400 from a group of Girl Scouts selling cookies outside a Walmart in Northampton Saturday. An adult supervising the Scouts suffered a broken nose and arm injuries trying to stop the men. 22-year-old Nicholas Taverna of Greenfield and 25-year-old Cassidy Michalski of Deerfield were held on \$5,000 bail at their arraignment Tuesday on charges of unarmed robbery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and shoplifting.

News **01/23/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Southwick Police are asking for your help to find a suspected armed robber from Connecticut. Lucas Mayette of Hartford is wanted in connection with the robbery of the Pride Gas Station on College Highway in Southwick. Police say the clerk was struck in the face with a gun on the morning of January 17th. Police say Mayette and another person drove off from the gas station in a blue 1999 Ford Escort. The suspects may be armed but if you have any information you're asked to call the Southwick Police.

News **01/23/13** **5pm** **: 30**

A Westfield man is in jail tonight after denying indecent assault, and child sex charges. First Assistant Hampden County District Attorney Jennifer Fitzgerald told 22News that 61 year old Gardner Whitney was arraigned this morning in Westfield District Court. Whitney was charged with one count of Indecent Assault and Battery; 4 counts of possession of child pornography, 3 counts of posing a child in the nude, and 3 counts of secretly recording a nude person. Fitzgerald said there is more than one young victim, and the DA's "Special Victims Unit" will prosecute the case. Whitney was ordered held on \$25,000 dollars cash bail.

News **01/24/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Several illegal weapons were seized from a Springfield home. Springfield police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News officers raided the home at 117 Sherwood Road after receiving a tip there were firearms being improperly stored inside. Officers found ten weapons as well as more than 23-hundred various rounds of ammunition hidden in a closet. Among the weapons, an AK 47 assault rifle, several other rifles and shotguns. 28 year old Timothy Oswald was arrested on several weapons charges. He was found in his car along with a .32 caliber handgun, brass knuckles and a switch blade. 20 year old Akeem Castro was with him and was also arrested and charged with possession of a firearm. Both suspects were arraigned. Oswald is being held on one million dollars bail.

News **01/24/13** **12pm** **: 30**

A man is recovering at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield after he was injured in an armed home invasion. Captain Larry Brown told 22News that just before 12:30 three men forced their way into 81 Mooreland Street and confronted the five people inside. All three suspects had guns and police say one of them hit a man in the head with a shotgun. If you have any information you're asked to call the Detective Bureau at the number on your screen.

News **01/24/13** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for three black men who broke into a home at 81 Mooreland Street just a few hours ago. That's in the Liberty Heights section of the city. Captain Larry Brown told 22News that just before 12:30 this morning; three men forced their way into the home and confronted the five people inside. All three suspects had guns and one of the suspects allegedly hit one of the men in the head with the barrel of the shotgun. He was

taken to Mercy Medical Center, but is expected to be okay. If you have any information call the Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau at the number on your screen.

News **01/24/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A pizza delivery man was robbed at gun point tonight after he was lured to a vacant house. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Clapood told 22News two men confronted the delivery man at 65 Grand Street at 7:45 tonight. Captain Clapood said one of the robbers pointed a large black handgun at the victim, grabbed the food, and took off. One was dressed all in black, the other wore a silver jacket.

News **01/25/13** **7am** **: 30**

Holyoke Police are still looking for a suspect in an armed robbery on Dwight Street. Police found what they believe to be the getaway car used in that convenience store holdup. A few minutes after someone held up the Dairy Mart, officers found a car about a mile away on Franklin Street. Police Lt. David Fournier told 22News, the gunman forced the Dairy Mart clerk to give him all the money he had. The thief then escaped in the car that might be the same one they located just a few minutes later, police are still looking for him.

News **01/25/13** **7am** **: 30**

Holyoke Police have arrested Daniel Gomes after he allegedly robbed the Go Liquor Store at 915 Main Street. Gomes allegedly got away with some cash and left in car around 9:30 last night. The victims followed the car to the highway and called police. Gomes was arrested on Interstate 391. He is being charged with unarmed robbery, having possession of cocaine and driving after his license was revoked. Gomes will be arraigned in Holyoke district court on Tuesday.

News **01/25/13** **5am** **: 30**

Two brothers are under arrest accused of an armed home invasion in Springfield. 24-year old twins Roberto and Eriberto Villafane of Springfield were charged with armed home invasion, and assault and threat to murder. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News the victim called police saying two men with guns forced their way into his home on Peer Street just before 11 Thursday morning. The police got there fast, and Sgt. Delaney said officers caught the suspects nearby. The gun used in the home invasion turned out to be fake.

News **01/28/13** **6pm** **: 30**

36 year-old Erica Little of Amherst faces charges she allegedly stabbed a man in the chest with a kitchen knife. Amherst Police Lt. Ronald Young told 22News that Little was arrested on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon following the incident on Friday morning. According to Lt. Young...a 34 year-old Amherst resident was stabbed during an altercation with Little. The victim is expected to recover from his stab wound. The

relationship between Little and the victim was not disclosed but Lt. Young says that the two knew each other.

News **01/30/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Chicopee Police have arrested a Westover Job Corps student who is accused of stabbing another student in the leg. Police Lt. Mark Higgins told 22News that 24 year old Anthony Martinez of Poughkeepsie, New York, is being charged with the alleged attack. Chicopee Police were called to Westover Job Corps just before 10 this morning. There, they found a 22 year-old student, who told them he had been stabbed in the leg during a fight on school grounds about 12 hours earlier. The victim was taken to the hospital, and is expected to be okay.

News **01/31/13** **11pm** **: 30**

One of the Springfield Police Department's newest members has made his first arrest. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that K-9 officer "Blek," a police dog, helped track a suspect who ran from police during a domestic disturbance early this morning. Sgt. Delaney says "Blek" was able to help track the scent of the suspect who was later found hiding under a porch on Brookline Avenue. There are currently 7 k-9 officers in the city. The department hopes to get two more police dogs in the spring.

News **02/01/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are investigating an attack on an elderly man who was stabbed at least 18 times by someone who broke into his home. Police Lt. Alberto Ayala told 22News it happened at a home at 92 College Street around 9 Thursday night. The 73 year old victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center and is expected to survive, but there's still no word on his condition. Lt. Ayala says a large amount of money was taken from the home. Police are asking anyone with information to contact the Springfield Detective Bureau at the number on your screen.

News **02/01/13** **6am** **: 30**

Police need your help in helping catch several suspects responsible for robbing yet another delivery driver in Springfield. The incident took place just before 9 o'clock on Central Street. Lt. Alberto Ayala told 22News that a Chinese food delivery driver from the Ho Mei Restaurant on Main Street was looking for an address when a group of at least 4 Hispanic teenagers attacked him. One of them had a knife and reportedly cut the driver's hand. The teens stole his cell phone and then ran away. They were described as wearing all black. Police advise that if you're in a situation that feels threatening on your delivery route, call 911 immediately.

News **02/01/13** **4:30am** **: 30**

A man was arrested inside Thornes Marketplace in Northampton after a brief struggle with police. Lt. John Cartledge told 22News that just before 5pm Thursday, an officer who was

conducting a routine check of the bathrooms inside Thornes, noticed what he believe was a drug deal. One of the men ran, a gun fell out of his pocket, and he was eventually pinned down by the police. 27 year old Casey Howard is charged with resisting arrest, assault and battery on a police officer, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and various drugs charges. Lt. Cartledge said he was carrying marijuana and Suboxone a prescription drug.

News **02/01/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police say they've arrested a "major heroin dealer." Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police arrested 23 year old Jesus Figueroa last night during a raid on his Peer Street home. Sgt. Delaney said detectives seized more than one-thousand bags of heroin packaged for sale, as well as other materials needed to run a large scale heroin distribution operation. Figueroa was also the victim of a home-invasion on January 24th. Sgt. Delaney says the majority of home-invasions involve drugs.

News **02/03/13** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police need your help to find out who broke into four different houses in the city's Pine Point neighborhood. Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News someone broke into a home at 150 Slater Avenue at 7:30 Saturday night. A half an hour later, a house at 22 Candance Circle was hit. Then just after 8:30 a man who stopped by his mother's house noticed someone inside the home at 167 Denver Street and quickly took off. A search with K-9 dogs turned up without a suspect but police did find a stolen pocketbook and credit cards on Wilton Street. The suspect is described as a black man wearing all black clothing and a black skull cap. The last call came in around 11:30 when a home was reportedly robbed at 26 Atwater Terrace. No one was injured and no arrests have been made. Lt. David Martin said they did area searches to prevent any more break-ins.

News **02/04/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking into whether a Springfield man who allegedly claimed to be an inspector for ADT is responsible for a series of break-ins over the weekend. Police arrested 48 year-old Kenneth Spence last night. An Ambrose Street homeowner said they had caught a man trying to force a rear door. Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the suspect told the homeowner he was from ADT and needed to check the security system. The Homeowner called 911, and the suspect drove off, but the homeowner wrote down the license number. Police charged Kenneth Spence with attempted breaking an entering intending to commit a felony.

News **02/05/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Easthampton's assistant High School principal is on leave after being arrested on drunken driving charges. This is Anne Beauregard's second drunk driving arrest. West Springfield Police say the assistant principal had been charged with operating under the influence before this incident. Police said they pulled Beauregard over near North Boulevard and Westfield Street shortly before two in the morning last Friday. Capt. Thomas Wilkinson told 22News

there was damage to the tire of her car. Beauregard pleaded not guilty to "operating under the influence charges this morning in Springfield District Court. Superintendent of Easthampton Schools, Dr. Nancy Follansbee told 22News this was the 51-year-old's 4th year working at the high school. Beauregard is now on paid administrative leave; pending the results of this investigation.

News

02/06/13

6pm

: 30

An Easthampton man was beaten outside a Northampton club, and now he wants help finding the man who attacked him. A warning, the victim's injuries are serious, and some may find these pictures disturbing. The incident happened just a couple of city blocks from where I'm standing Downtown. It happened early last Sunday, a time when this area is known to be busy with club goers. This is what 25-year-old Dan Couchon looked like hours before being attacked in Northampton early last Sunday. This is what he looks like now. There are five different fractures on my face and I have a broken nose. So, that doesn't come from one punch. Couchon says he left Bishop's Lounge around 1AM. As soon as I walked out I was approached by this Hispanic guy that asked me where the party was, where the after party was. The exchange of words took a wrong turn, fast. That's when he socked me, he hit me in the face, I fell to the ground and after that it was pretty much a blur. Bars here close their doors at 1AM but continue to serve alcohol until 2. Police received their first 911 call around 1:15am. By the time they got here, they found Couchon lying near his parked car, semi-conscious and covered in blood. Couchon says the man who hit him wasn't alone. Witnesses say he drove off in a light colored 4-door sedan. Shari Belden's son is a bouncer at The Tunnel Bar and was the first to call 911. Michael stands up here and apparently saw the fight from up there, told them everything he could say. And that included the license plate number and issuing state. Belden says police told her son it was a returned plate. Couchon hopes someone who may have witnessed the beating will come forward. So does his mother who held back tears when remembering that night. It's heartbreaking to look at your son's face like that. It's so random and you question the safety of anyone walking alone in the city. Anyone with information on this incident is being asked to call Northampton Police at 413-587-1105.

News

02/07/13

12pm

: 30

The man, who was shot Thursday night, is a Springfield College security guard and Springfield Police have arrested four suspects. The shooting happened in the area of Eastern Avenue and Hickory Street just before 11:30 Wednesday night. Springfield College Spokesman Steve Roulier told 22News the guard was walking to work to make his midnight shift. The guard is expected to be ok. Sgt John Delaney told 22News that four men allegedly robbed the guard and then shot him in the leg. Sgt Delaney says all four men are also suspects in an armed robbery of employees outside the Summit Package Store at 195 Pine Street about a half an hour before the shooting. 18 year Julian Roberts, 20 year old Azekial Rodney, 23 year old Samuel Eady and 19 year old Quiyam Traynham all face various charges including armed robbery.

News

02/07/13

11pm

: 30

Holyoke Police have arrested a man accused of breaking into a home that was condemned after a deadly fire. Holyoke Police Lt. Matthew Moriarty told 22News that 33 year old Robert Rosario of Holyoke was found inside the home at 28 Glen Street last night with a flashlight, pliers and an empty canvas bag. The home was condemned after 15-year old Hailey Hilton was killed there during a fire last month. Rosario was charged with breaking and entering in the night with intent to commit a felony and possession of burglar tool.

News **02/08/13** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield Police need your help to find out who broke into four different houses Saturday night. Four house break-ins were reported between 7:30 and 11:30 Saturday night. Two of those four break-ins happened right here in this neighborhood, Liberty Heights section of Springfield, on Atwater Terrace and Candice Circle. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News someone broke into a home at 150 Slater Avenue at 7:30. That's the first reported break-in. 30 minutes later; a house at 22 Candice Circle was hit. Then over in the Pine Point section of the city, just after 8:30, a man who stopped by his mother's house at 167 Denver St. noticed a strange person inside the house, that person ran away. Police searched the area with police dogs. They didn't find a suspect but found a stolen pocketbook and credit cards on Wilton Street. That suspect is described as a black man wearing all black clothing and a black skull cap. Finally the last call came in around 11:30 when a home was reportedly robbed at 26 Atwater Terrace. Springfield Police Lt. David Martin said no one was injured and no arrests have been made. Springfield Police Detective Bureau is now taking over the investigation. If you have any information, contact the police.

News **02/09/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are investigating a shooting in the city's Upper Hill neighborhood. All we know right now is that at around 1:30 this morning, two men and one woman were shot inside a home at the intersection of Wellington and Annawon Streets. Captain Larry Brown told 22News they dispatched ambulances and those people were rushed to Baystate Medical Center. The Detective Bureau is investigating.

News **02/10/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A surveillance camera has captured the image of the man who allegedly robbed the convenience store at the Pride service station in Chicopee this morning. Chicopee detective Timothy Foley told 22News, the alleged thief- seen here wearing a hoodie appears to be a white man in his mid forties. Foley said the suspect reached over the counter and stole one hundred dollars from the cash register. The man accused of the unarmed robbery then ran down Chicopee Street. All this occurred just before six o'clock this morning. If you can identify this man call Chicopee detectives at 594-1736.

News **02/12/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A 25-year-old Bridgewater man has been charged with stealing a \$5,000 gold chain from around his dead grandmother's neck as she lay in her casket. Police said that Shawn Wilde who has a tattoo on his chest reading "only God can judge me" asked for a few minutes alone to say a prayer. When Wilde left, the funeral director noticed that a gold chain was missing. Wilde turned himself in to police.

News **02/12/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking for two men who used a rifle to rob a downtown convenience store last night. Officer Charles Youmans told 22news two Hispanic men, dressed in black and with the hoods hiding their faces held-up the Worthington Street store just after 9:30 last night. They grabbed about \$300 dollars from the cash register and some cigarettes and ran away. On the way out, they dropped an ammunition magazine for an older style rifle. If you have any information contact the Springfield police department or you can anonymously text a tip.

News **02/12/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Pittsfield Police are investigating several commercial business break-ins that began in early January. Pittsfield Police Capt. John Mullin told 22News that break-ins have been reported on Dalton Ave, Yorkshire Ave, Commercial St, and East St. There were also breaks on North Street and West Housatonic St. Residents should report any suspicious activity or attempted breaks to businesses or homes, even if nothing was taken. It may help the investigators on another case in the neighborhood.

News **02/15/13** **6pm** **: 30**

It didn't take long for Holyoke Police to make an arrest after an armed robbery of a Dunkin' Donuts this morning. Holyoke Police Lt. Jim Albert told 22News they arrested 41 year old George Radosavljevic a short distance from Dunkin Donuts at 1600 Northampton Street. The suspect is a homeless man from Northampton. Lt. Albert said police charged Radosavljevic with armed robbery and 2 counts of armed assault with intent to rob.

News **02/16/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Allegedly caught in the act of holding up a Hess service station in Chicopee before dawn this morning. Chicopee Detective Timothy Foley provided 22News with these surveillance camera pictures allegedly showing the man robbing the clerk at the Hess station on Memorial drive. The clerk told detectives the man implied that he had a weapon when he demanded money from the store clerk. The man in the picture is about five foot three to five foot six. He ran away after taking the money. If you know who he is, call the Chicopee detective bureau at 594-1736.

News **02/17/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A Westfield business was robbed this afternoon. Officer John Blaschak told 22News at around 1:15 today, the MoFroYo Frozen Yogurt store at 617 East Main Street was robbed by a man. Officer Blasjack didn't have any other information. The Westfield Detective Bureau is investigating.

News **02/17/13** **11pm** **: 30**

The Springfield Police are searching for two men who robbed the Spring Valley Food Mart. At around 8:30 tonight, two Hispanic men in their early 20's allegedly robbed the store. It's located at 353 Allen Street. Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News that one man had a gun and pointed it at the clerk. That's when the other man jumped over the counter and grabbed \$300 from a cash box. They were both wearing ski masks and hoodies and were last seen running up Montgomery Street. If you have any information, contact the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355.

News **02/19/13** **6pm** **: 30**

In the eastern part of the state, Rosildo Santos junior of Hudson is in trouble with the law for allegedly driving naked through two drive-thru's. Santos faces charges of open and gross lewdness. According to police, workers at a Dunkin' Donuts in Westborough reported a man at the drive-thru window with just a coat over his waist. While an officer was investigating, Santos allegedly went past the window again, this time completely naked. Police said Santos also tried to use the drive-up window at a nearby McDonald's.

News **02/19/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A close call for a Chicopee police officer, a home invasion suspect tried to grab his gun. The gun went off but the officer wasn't hit. Capt. Daniel Sullivan told 22News that the suspect shot two men in a home invasion at 103 Madison Street, around 11:30 last night. An officer struggled with the suspect outside, the officer's gun went off, and the officer suffered minor injuries. Police arrested 34 year old William Wright of Westfield and charged him with 6 counts of armed assault with intent to murder. The police chief told 22news robbery was the motive for the home invasion.

News **02/19/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police say they found the driver who hit and killed a woman on Main Street then drove away. Springfield Police Capt. Thomas Trites told 22News the woman was struck just after noon at the corner of Main Street and Jefferson Avenue in the city's north end. She died a short time later at Baystate Medical Center. Police say they found the driver and the car a few hours after the accident. Neighbors told 22News often people drive too fast down Main Street.

News **02/20/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Four people, including three from Franklin County, were arrested in Holyoke after police say they came to the city to buy heroin. Holyoke Police Lt. Matthew Moriarty told 22News that Walter Fitzpatrick, Thomas Peterson, and Matthew Hutchinson all of Turners Falls, and Wehnonah-Rae Miller-Sackman of Brattleboro, Vermont are all facing drug charges. Police say they've been watching 556 South Bridge Street after reports of heroin being sold there. Lt. Moriarty said they found packaged heroin in the suspects' car.

News **02/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A man wanted in connection with a stabbing outside a Chicopee bar surrendered to police. Chicopee Police Captain Daniel Sullivan told 22News Miguel Solano of Chicopee is accused of stabbing a Holyoke man at the Dugout Café Early Wednesday. Captain Sullivan said Solano turned himself in to police last night. The victim's in stable condition. Solano's faced arraignment on charges of attempted murder, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

News **02/22/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A UMass freshman is accused of rape. 18-year-old Chinese national Weilang Wang was arrested overnight this past Tuesday, arraigned Wednesday and is still being held on \$7,500 bail. A Umass spokesman says the alleged incident happened Tuesday night when Wang had a visitor in his room. The victim fell asleep and that's when she says she was attacked. She immediately called police and Wang was arrested at Building B in the campus' North Residential Area. The victim did receive medical attention, but university officials have yet to confirm if she was a student. One senior who lives in the building told 22News she was surprised by the incident.

News **02/23/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Police in Watertown, Connecticut are searching for a missing teenage girl, who may have been ABDUCTED and taken to Massachusetts. Watertown Police Sgt. Patrick Girouard told 22News that 17-year old Nelly Rodriguez texted her aunt and said a white man and woman she didn't know had forced her into a vehicle. Several other text messages were received from Nelly's phone from someone who claimed to have Nelly. The family believes that she may have been taken to Massachusetts. Nelly is a 17 years old Hispanic, approximately 5'3", 115 lbs. She also has a red heart tattoo under her left eye. Anyone with information should call Watertown Police immediately at 860-945-5200.

News **02/25/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Chicopee police are looking for two suspects in a bank robbery on Memorial Drive early this afternoon. Detective Timothy Foley told 22News that two men robbed the Bank of America branch at 638 Memorial Drive just before 12:30. These are surveillance photos released by police Foley said both suspects handed notes to two different tellers demanding money. Both men implied that they were armed, but no weapons were shown. They left the bank with an

undetermined amount of cash. If you have any information you can the Chicopee Police Detective Bureau at (413) 594-1733.

News **02/25/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police in Watertown, Connecticut are searching for a missing teenage girl, who may have been abducted and taken to Massachusetts. Watertown Police Sgt. Patrick Girouard told 22News that 17-year old Nelly Rodriguez texted her aunt and said a white man and woman she didn't know had forced her into a vehicle. Several other text messages were received from Nelly's phone from someone who claimed to have Nelly. The family believes that she may have been taken to Massachusetts. Nelly is a 17 years old Hispanic, approximately 5'3", 115 lbs. She also has a red heart tattoo under her left eye. Anyone with information should call Watertown Police immediately at 860-945-5200.

News **02/27/13** **6pm** **: 30**

No bail for the Holyoke Community college student accused of making a threat that forced the evacuation of the campus yesterday. 23 year old Cameron Faniel was arraigned today in Holyoke District Court. More than 3,000 HCC students and staff were evacuated Tuesday afternoon, after state police say Faneil made threats against a family member, and members of the college community. Faniel was arrested by troopers in Springfield during the evacuation. The campus was closed for hours, but re-opened for evening classes.

News **03/04/13** **12pm** **: 30**

A bank in Greenfield was robbed for the second time in less than a month, and police say the same man may be responsible. Greenfield Police Lt. Dan McCarthy told 22News that the TD-Bank branch on Main Street was robbed at around 2:40 Sunday afternoon. Lt. McCarthy said it was robbed by this white man who was wearing a gray hoodie, a black ski mask, and black pants. The man pointed a gun at the teller and demanded money. After grabbing the cash he ran away. The description of the suspect matches the description of the man who robbed the same bank on February 17th.

News **03/05/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Hadley Police need your help identifying two suspects who allegedly used children to help carry out their shoplifting crimes. According to a news release from Hadley Police, the suspects sent a 10 year old child into Best Buy to select several electronic items and place them in a single location. The suspects then entered the store with two smaller children, who began running around the store, diverting the attention of store employees. That's when the suspects allegedly grabbed the items, put them in a stroller and left the store. Hadley Police believe they got away with thousands of dollars in merchandise. Anyone with information should contact Hadley Police.

News **03/05/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Holyoke Police are cracking down on drug deals and prostitution. 11 people were arrested this past weekend as part of an operation targeting street level drug sales and prostitution. Holyoke Police Lt. Matthew Moriarty told 22News police focused their enforcement on Ward one, which covers most of downtown, after receiving complaints from residents. Lt. Moriarty says this proactive approach will continue through the coming months as the warmer weather approaches.

News **03/05/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for three suspects who robbed a convenience store on Dickinson Street around 8:30 tonight. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Clapprood told 22News one of the suspects flashed a black handgun at the clerk of "Dale's Corner" store and demanded cash. The suspects got away with about 50 dollars, a few packs of cigarettes and the wallets of four customers who were inside the store at the time. No one was injured.

News **03/06/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke Police are searching for suspects tonight after a five year old boy and 26 year old man were shot in the city's Flat's neighborhood this afternoon. A five year-old boy and a 26 year old man are recovering at a hospital right now. Earlier today at around 12:30 the man and the child were walking from this community center at Lyman and North Summer Streets. As they were crossing the streets, they were shot. The child was shot in his knee. Witnesses told 22News they've heard four or five gunshots. Holyoke Police Lt. Matthew Moriarty told 22News both victims were taken to area hospitals. They are both expected to be okay. They are still investigating this shooting, so at this point; they don't know what led to the shooting or who shot these two people. Lyman Street has been reopened since this afternoon. 22News spoke with neighbors who say this has always been a quiet neighborhood. Especially with a community center in the middle, it has always been quiet in the past.

News **03/06/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are searching for two suspects after a man was allegedly car-jacked and forced to withdraw money from an ATM. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney released these surveillance photos of the suspect. Sgt. Delaney says this man and another woman car-jacked a man from the corner of Dwight and Worthington Street around 11:30 last night and forced him to take out 600 dollars from the people's bank drive-up ATM on Sumner Ave. Anyone with information should call Springfield detectives at 787-6355 or they can anonymously "Text-a-Tip".

News **03/06/13** **12pm** **: 30**

A variety of different drugs were seized by State Police Tuesday night... on the same stretch of Interstate 84 where another drug bust was made earlier in the day. According to a news release sent to 22News by State Police Media Relations just before 10:00 last night a sergeant pulled over 35 year old Carlos Vargas on 84 Eastbound in Sturbridge for speeding

and a marked lanes violation. The sergeant discovered that Vargas had a suspended license, and he was arrested. Troopers searched Vargas' car and allegedly found 250 grams of heroin, 200 grams of cocaine, a pound of marijuana and 79 Percocet pills. State Police estimate the street value of the seized drugs to be around \$41,000 dollars. Vargas will be arraigned in Dudley District Court .on charges including trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in heroin, and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

News **03/06/13** **12pm** **: 30**

A man and a woman that Springfield police say were allegedly running a "large cocaine distribution center" were arrested Tuesday night following a raid on their home. 27 year old Charlie Santiago and 26 year old Geneva Griffith are now facing multiple charges. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that officers had been running surveillance on the two for the past few weeks. Sgt. Delaney says police found Santiago and Griffith were delivering large amounts of cocaine to be sold across the area. After obtaining a search warrant, police arrested the couple at their home on Brookline Avenue. Griffith was found with "several small children." Also inside Sgt. Delaney says police found over \$6,000 dollars in cash, 128 grams of cocaine and two handguns and ammunition. He says that one of the guns was reported stolen during a home break -in two years ago. The children were placed with a relative and DFS was notified.

News **03/07/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A man who allegedly pointed a fully-loaded handgun at an officer was arrested by Springfield Police early this morning. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News police noticed a suspicious person outside the Milton Bradley School around 1am. When they approached 19-year-old Marcquel Robinson of Springfield, he ran from them. The officers caught up to him on Temple Street and that's when he pointed a semi-automatic handgun at one of the officers. The officer was able to tackle Robinson and knock the gun from his hand. Robinson was arraigned on several charges including assault with a dangerous weapon and resisting arrest. The gun was reported stolen during a home break-in in Philadelphia.

News **03/08/13** **5am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for two men who allegedly shot a man. Lt. David Martin told 22News that just after 11:30 last night, a 19 year old man was shot in the area of 750 Boston Road. He was shot in the lower back and the leg, and was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he's in stable condition. Police are looking for two Hispanic men, ages 17-23-, one about 5'11, the other about 5'6. They were last seen on Arnold Avenue. If you have any information, call the Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau at the number on your screen.

News **03/08/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Southwick Police need your help identifying this woman. She's wanted for a hit and run accident involving a late 90's or early 2000's Chevy Silverado. The crash happened this past

Saturday at the Dunkin Donuts on College Highway. No one was injured. If you have any information, call Southwick police.

News **03/09/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police say after an extensive effort, they made an arrest in a shooting that wounded a five year old boy. The father had just hugged his son and had just put him down. That's when 21 year old Brian Marrero allegedly started shooting hitting a father and his 5 year old son. During a news conference Saturday, Holyoke Police Chief James Neiswonger said they had to obtain a search warrant to arrest Marrero. Police say this wasn't the first time he was in trouble, he had a violent history. And that was even more apparent when he allegedly started shooting hitting a child. Police say the father and his son were returning from the community center when he was shot here on the corner of Lyman and North Summer Street. It was on North Summer Street that the suspect allegedly lives. And in the neighborhood, one child told us many of them are still nervous to go outside since the shooting on March 6th. Since then the victim, 26 year old Reynaldo Diaz has been released from the hospital. The five year old is still hospitalized but is expected to recover. Several charges were filed against Marrero including possession of a firearm without a license. Bail has been set at \$100,000 dollars.

News **03/09/13** **6am** **: 30**

An effort to stop an SUV led police through several communities Friday night. It took Springfield, Chicopee, Ludlow, Granby and State Police to stop three robbery suspects Friday night. The chase began in Six Corners in Springfield when the trio took off as officers were trying to pull them over and ended here on Blanchard St. in Chicopee. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News it all started when police were called to find three men in a 2005 ford expedition with Connecticut plates. Three suspects were accused of robbing several people at gunpoint on Chester St. and Clifton Ave. Police found the SUV in Six Corners, but the car took off and the chase began. The suspects on onto 291 traveled into Chicopee, then Ludlow, then into Granby and back to Chicopee. Finally on Blanchard St. officers placed stop sticks, which worked, and those three people were arrested. Sgt. Delaney said the SUV was stolen from Hartford CT and they found a significant amount of marijuana in the car packaged for sale. The three suspects are 19-year-old John Matos of Springfield, 21-year-old William Walker of Hartford and a juvenile whose name is not released. The two adults are being held over the weekend. They will be arraigned on Monday on several charges including armed robbery, refusing to submit and assault by means of dangerous weapon. Before the SUV stopped, police believed they saw one of the suspects throw a gun out the window. Police were able to find that gun alongside the woods after a search.

News **03/10/13** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating a shooting in the Six Corners neighborhood. Lt. David Martin told 22news the call came in around midnight that several shots were fired. Martin said seven shell casings were found at the intersection of Hawthorne and Hancock Streets.

Police say they did not find anyone who was injured. The Springfield Detective Bureau is looking into the cause, if you have any information you're asked to call them.

News **03/12/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a man accused of car-jacking and robbing an Agawam man at knifepoint last week. 27 year old Marc Savage of Springfield has been charged with kidnapping and armed robbery. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News Savage and an unidentified woman carjacked the victim at a stoplight, then forced him to drive to an ATM and withdraw hundreds of dollars in cash. Sgt. Delaney says more arrests are possible.

News **03/12/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Police in Connecticut say a naked man who was high on PCP kidnapped his girlfriend's baby and ran across I-95 in Bridgeport. Thirty-year-old Santos Rodriguez was charged with kidnapping and other crimes after the incident Saturday. His girlfriend said he believed someone was after him... called her the devil and threw a Bible at her. He took off his clothes and ran out of the home with her son. State police took him into custody and he's being held on 100-thousand dollars bail.

News **03/13/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Fall River police have charged a 14-year-old boy with robbing a city McDonald's at gunpoint and pistol whipping the manager. Police say the boy entered the restaurant at about 5:30 this morning wearing a mask and brandishing a gun. He struck the manager in the face with the gun and ordered the manager to take him to the safe. He stuffed money in a duffel bag and left the store on foot but police soon caught up with him.

News **03/13/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Federal prosecutors say two men have been arrested in connection with a string of bank robberies in upstate New York and Massachusetts since January. 21-year-old Zachariah Edwards and 21-year-old Nicholas Ferrone, both of New York have surrendered to investigators. They allegedly robbed a Bank of America branch in Chicopee and several banks in New York. Both are being held without bail.

News **03/14/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Greenfield police are searching for at least one suspect after there were three armed robberies in a four week span. The TD Bank on Main Street was robbed twice in the last few weeks and the Greenfield Cooperative Bank nearby was robbed Wednesday. Detective Lt. Dan McCarthy told 22News it's possible the same person is responsible for all of them. He said the community is aware of what's going on and they're doing their best to stop them.

News **03/14/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield police quickly made an arrest after they say a man was robbed and pistol-whipped at a South End ATM. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that 27 year old John Rivera of Springfield was arrested less than two hours after the alleged crime. Sgt. Delaney says around 1:20 this morning a 45 year-old man was in his car at an ATM at East Columbus Avenue and Mill Street when another man began banging on his window. The man had a gun and used the butt-end of it to smash the victim's driver's side window. He then hit the victim in the face with the weapon and took the man's wallet, cell phone, and prescription pills. Sgt. Delaney says that around 3 this morning a patrolling officer found Rivera leaving an ATM on Island Pond Road. Police found that he was carrying the victim's wallet, cell phone, and pill bottles. He was arrested and charged with three counts of receiving stolen property and malicious damage to a motor vehicle. He also faces two counts of domestic assault and battery for a separate incident where he allegedly assaulted his mother and a friend of hers.

News **03/15/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Greenfield Police have identified a suspect wanted in connection with three bank robberies in town. Greenfield Police Lt. Daniel McCarthy told 22News 39 year old Richard May is considered armed and dangerous. Police believe he was dropped off in Holyoke after allegedly robbing the Greenfield Co-operative Bank on Wednesday afternoon. May also has connections to Worcester and Boston. May has plugs in both ears and tattoos along his right arm. If you have information, call Greenfield Police at 773-5411.

News **03/15/13** **5pm** **: 30**

First at five tonight, a man is lucky to escape serious injury after he was grazed by a bullet while sitting in a barber shop in Springfield's North End. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News a 23-year-old city man was waiting to get a haircut at Cecilia's Barber Shop on Main Street around 2 this afternoon. That's when the victim said he heard four shots and saw people running. Sgt. Delaney says one bullet went through the window and grazed the victim's right shoulder. Police believe he was not the intended target. If you have information, contact Springfield police or you can anonymously text a tip.

News **03/15/13** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating a shooting in the Six Corners neighborhood. Lt. David Martin told 22news the call came in around midnight last night that several shots were fired. Martin said seven shell casings were found at the intersection of Hawthorne and Hancock Streets. Police say they did not find anyone who was injured. The Springfield Detective Bureau is looking into the cause, if you have any information you're asked to call them.

News **03/15/13** **6pm** **: 30**

A would be hold up suspect found himself stymied by stubborn restaurant employees early this morning in Springfield. Springfield Police Lt. David Martin told 22News, the man armed with a steak knife couldn't persuade Pizzeria Uno employees on Boston Road to give him the

bank bag of money that he demanded. Lt. Martin said the bandit twice demanded money and twice they refused. Apparently frustrated, the man with the knife backed down and ran away, nobody was hurt. Pizzeria Uno's is located in the business district across from Eastfield Mall.

News **03/16/13** **6pm** **: 30**

11 year old girl was shot in Springfield this morning while the child was waiting in line to buy a pair of sneakers. It wasn't the kind of shot Michael Jordan made it was a gunshot. Saturday morning an 11 year old girl was shot in the leg while waiting in line to get the newest pair of Air Jordan sneakers. Police think she was just caught in the crossfire but to many shopping in the area, it's just senseless. Police helicopters were called in to help with the investigation. Employees of the MadRag store off of Boston Road spent the morning cleaning up the glass shattered by the bullet. But it was the shoe store next door that people were waiting to enter around 8:30 Saturday morning. Police say there was a line of about 30 or 40 people waiting outside of the shoe store before the store opened. It's an incident that people feel are happening too often. The girl is expected to be ok. Springfield Detectives are looking for the gunman whose bullet went astray and struck the child. If you have any information that will lead to his arrest please call the Springfield Detective bureau at 787-6355.

News **03/16/13** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for a suspect after an attempted arm robbery on Boston Road. Lt. David Martin told 22news the suspect armed himself with a steak knife at the Pizzeria Uno's restaurant around midnight. Martin said he asked for a bank bag with money. The staff refused and after his second attempt he left. If you have any information you can call the Springfield Detective Bureau.

News **03/17/13** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police have made an arrest in a home invasion in the city's Forest Park neighborhood where one man was stabbed. Lt. David Martin told 22News a man entered the home at 60 Garfield Street just after midnight. That's when police say he stabbed a man in the abdomen and forearm. Martin said the victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center with serious injuries. Police spotted the suspect leaving the home with items and arrested him. He is being charged with home invasion, armed robbery and other charges.

News **03/18/13** **12pm** **: 30**

One arrest has been made and a man is recovering in Springfield today after a violent home invasion over the weekend. Springfield Police Sgt John Delaney told 22News 19 year old Roberto Hill Jr. of Springfield was arrested after a brief chase and struggle. Sgt Delaney says Hill entered a home at 60 Garfield Street and stabbed the victim twice and stole jewelry and money. Police arrested Hill as he was leaving the home with the stolen items. Sgt. Delaney says Hill is a suspect in many break-ins in the Forest Park area. Police are not releasing the victim's name but they did say he is in good condition.

News **03/20/13** **6am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for a man who stole a cash register from a gas station. It happened just after 9 o'clock last night at the Mobil station at 1828 Boston Road. Lt. David Martin told 22News a white man, about 5' 9" tall walked into the store with a knife and a mask covering his face. He threatened the clerk and then stole the cash register. The man ran out of the store and may have gotten into a vehicle on Hatch Street. He was wearing a gray hoodie with red stripes and jeans. If you have any information, you're asked to call the Springfield Police at the number on your screen.

News **03/21/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Three suspects have been charged with shooting two men in Springfield's lower forest park neighborhood last night. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the three men were arrested 20 minutes after allegedly opening fire on two men near the Red Apple Chinese Restaurant on Orange Street. The two victims were both shot multiple times but are expected to recover. Sgt. Delaney says the suspects and the victims were arguing Johnny Appleseed Park before the shooting.

News **03/21/13** **5am** **: 30**

Holyoke Police arrested a man suspected of robbing three banks in Greenfield. Greenfield Police Lt. Dan McCarthy told 22News... 38-year-old Richard May allegedly robbed the T-D Bank on Main Street in Greenfield on February 17th and March 3rd. He's also suspected of robbing a bank on Federal Street on March 13th. May was arrested while walking near South Bridge and Hamilton Streets in Holyoke. He's scheduled to appear in court in Holyoke this morning before being taken back to Greenfield.

News **03/22/13** **6pm** **: 30**

35-year-old Tregg Barney of Springfield has been charged with kidnapping, after a high speed chase this morning. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News Barney went through a stop sign then sped down Maple Street. As police attempted to pull Barney's S-U-V over, a passenger attempted to jump out the side door but was pulled back in by the driver. As the SUV turned onto College Street, Sgt. Delaney said Barney lost control and crashed. Police arrested him after he ran from the wreck. The woman in the passenger seat was treated at Baystate medical center for minor injuries.

News **03/22/13** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield Police have made an arrest in a home invasion in the city's Forest Park neighborhood where one man was stabbed. Lt. David Martin told 22News a man entered the home at 60 Garfield Street just after midnight. That's when police say he stabbed a man in the abdomen and forearm. Martin said the victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center with

serious injuries. Police spotted the suspect leaving the home with items and arrested him. He is being charged with home invasion, armed robbery and other charges.

News

03/22/13

7am

: 30

A former Holyoke Catholic girl's soccer coach has been arrested on charges of sexual exploitation of children. This is the criminal complaint against Michael DuPont of Chicopee. The 36-year old former soccer coach is now accused of getting underage girls to get naked on their webcams and send pictures to him. Michael DuPont spent six seasons coaching girls soccer at Holyoke Catholic High School. In a criminal complaint, a department of Homeland Security Special Agent says DuPont admitted he received explicit photos of at least five different girls, including one he knew was 14 or 15 years old. The Springfield Diocese sent 22News a statement that reads in part, "Investigators have not found any evidence at this stage that involves Holyoke Catholic students." The complaint shows several emails conversations between a 14 year old girl in Vermont and a man who police believe is DuPont. Agents allege Dupont met this girl in a chat room last October. The complaint alleges they also talked on a webcam, where DuPont asked the girl to quote "put on a show." Police arrested DuPont, formerly of Westfield at his home in Chicopee Thursday morning. The complaint says DuPont's last job was at Applebee's in Chicopee. If convicted DuPont faces a mandatory minimum of 15 years and a maximum of 30 years in federal prison.

News

03/23/13

6pm

: 30

Chicopee police need your help tracking down a woman suspected of robbing two gas stations this week. Chicopee Police Lt. Mark Higgins told 22News at 10:45 Thursday night they were called to the Shell Station on Grove Street for a robbery. The suspect is described as a white woman in her 20s, about 5 feet 5 inches, light hair and thin build. A white woman is also suspected to have robbed the Pride Station on Burnett Road the night before. You're asked to call Chicopee police at the number on your screen 594-1735 if you know anything.

News

03/23/13

9am

: 30

Springfield Police are searching for a woman armed with a box cutter. The woman allegedly held up a 7/11, and then, hours later, attempted to rob the Bob's Mart convenience store here on Page Boulevard. Here's a look at the location of the two robberies. They're not particularly close to each other, but police think the woman may have hopped into a vehicle to travel between the two locations. It all started just after 3:00AM, Captain Larry Brown told 22News the woman walked into the 7/11 on Springfield Street and demanded money. She got away with an undetermined amount of cash. Shortly after 5:30AM, the same woman allegedly came here to the Bob's Mart at 500 Page Boulevard. Captain Brown says she ran into the store, and threatened the clerk with the box cutter. She demanded money, but the clerk refused. She was last seen getting into a vehicle which was parked at the nearby Lewis & Clark drug store. She's described as a thin white woman, about 5-foot-five, with a black jacket. There's no description of the vehicle that she got into. Call the Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau at 787-6355 with information.

News

03/23/13

9am

: 30

We now know the names of three men who were arrested following a drive-by shooting that resulted in one man being wounded. He was taken to Baystate medical center. 20 year old Anthony Smith, 17 year old Charles Darby and 18 year old Trevor Gale were arrested. Captain Larry brown told 22news that just before 2 o'clock this morning, they were allegedly driving in a black Cadillac and shot a man several times. The victim was walking along stearns square in the area of 342 Worthington Street. Once police arrested the suspects, officers say they the handgun, and searched the car where they are said to have found ecstasy and marijuana. The victim is expected to survive. Call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355 with any information.

News

03/25/13

6pm

: 30

Springfield Police are asking for you help identifying a suspect who allegedly stole hundreds of dollars worth of items from the Ocean State Job lot on Boston Road. Take a look at these surveillance photos. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the suspect threatened to stab the security guard with a knife when he attempted to leave the store with the stolen merchandise. The suspect is described as a white man in his fifties, about 180 pounds with a gray beard. Anyone with information should call Springfield police.

News

03/25/13

6am

: 30

25-year-old Leigha Neiford of Springfield is due in court today on charges of robbing two convenience stores in Chicopee. Lt. Mark Higgins told 22News she was arrested Saturday night in West Springfield after allegedly trying to rob a store there. She was charged with two robberies in Chicopee one at the Pride Station on Burnett Road. Another robbery at the Shell Station on Grove Street was caught on camera. She is being held on 50-thousand dollars bail. More charges are pending in Springfield and West Springfield.

News

03/25/13

6am

: 30

There's no word yet on if she is the suspect wanted in Springfield for holding up a 7-eleven early Saturday morning. Captain Larry Brown told 22News a woman threatened the clerk using a box cutter. The store is located at 425 Springfield Street, not far from the Chicopee line.

News

03/27/13

6pm

: 30

Three Springfield schools were on lockdown this afternoon as police investigated a shooting. Springfield Police officer Charles Youmans told 22News a man was shot near Avon place and Maple Street. No one was allowed to enter or leave the Milton Bradley Elementary School, the High School of Commerce or the Forest Park Middle school this afternoon. School Department spokeswoman Azell Cavaan said that police ended the lockdown after about 30 minutes. No word on the victim or suspects.

News **03/27/13** **6pm** **: 30**

The former head of the now-closed Mason Square Veteran's Outreach Center is accused of stealing thousand of dollars meant to help disabled veterans. The state attorney general's office says 53-year old Christopher Scott stole \$31,000dollars in grant money meant to make the center handicapped accessible. This is file video of Scott during a 2009 interview. Scott is also accused of taking \$20,000 dollars from the center's bank accounts through cash withdrawals, checks and unauthorized loans. Scott was indicted yesterday by a Hampden County Grand Jury on larceny and fraud charges.

News **03/27/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a suspect accused of shooting an 11 year old girl while she was waiting in line to buy sneakers. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 19 year old Kenny Bynum shot the young girl outside the Expressions Clothing store on Boston Road on the morning of Saturday, March 16th. The girl was in line to by the new "air Jordan" sneakers when a fight started and shots were fired. Sgt. Delaney says Bynam is currently in the hospital, recovering from two gun shot wounds from a separate incident. He will be arraigned at a later date.

News **03/27/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police say the 42 year old man driving the car that hit a woman and her baby this morning didn't have a license to drive. The woman and child were hit just before 8:30 this morning near the corner of Main and Osgood Streets in the city's North End. Officer Charles Youmans said the woman's injuries were serious, but it appeared that both victims will recover. Springfield Police Lt. James Rosso told 22News that 42 year old Ivan Vega of Springfield will be arraigned tomorrow on several charges. Police arrested Vega and charged him with driving without a license, and giving a false name to police. Lt. Rosso said there may be more charges.

News **03/28/13** **5pm** **: 30**

A man convicted of rape in Massachusetts who's been on the run for 35 years was captured in Maine. Massachusetts State Police told 22News Gary Allen Irving was arrested shortly after 9 last night at a home in Maine, where he had been living under the name Gregg Irving. Irving was convicted of three Norfolk County rapes in 1978 but the start of his sentence was stayed by a judge, and Irving fled. Irving, who is in his 50s, has been on the Massachusetts Top 10 Most Wanted list for decades.

News **03/28/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A 22news follow up now on the shooting this afternoon in Springfield that forced the lock down of several schools. Police are still searching for a suspect tonight after a 31 year old city man suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told

22News the victim told police he was trying to break up a fight near the corner of Maple Street and Avon Place around 1 this afternoon when he was shot. Sgt. Delaney says the shooting may have involved gang members. He did not have any updated information on the victim's condition.

News **03/29/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Police believe this apartment building at 556 South Bridge Street in Holyoke was the headquarters for the La Familia gang in Holyoke and its heroin distribution operation. You can see just how close it is to the Morgan Elementary School. This morning, police seized, heroin, cocaine, guns including a machine gun and \$38,000 in cash in multiple raids in Holyoke, Springfield and Chicopee. Police called this operation "60 Minutes". 16 people were arrested, 11 charged with federal drug and firearms charges. This is part of a long term investigation into the La Familia and Latin Kings street gangs. Police arrested Francisco Franco Diaz who they believe was the leader of La Familia in Holyoke. Holyoke police say this building has caused them problems for years.

News **03/30/13** **9am** **: 30**

Westfield police Officer John Blascak told 22News that they found the shooting victim near the intersection of Chapel and Mechanic Streets at about 9:30 Friday night. Officer Blascak said that State Police and Southwick Police dogs were involved in the search. The victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he was treated and released. If you have any information you are asked to call the Westfield Police Department.

News **03/31/13** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield Police need your help in a hit and run accident on Main Street. Captain Larry Brown told 22News a man was hit by a black car near the McDonald's in the South End around 12 this morning. Brown said the victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center and expected to be okay. Now police are looking for a black Honda coupe with tinted windows and silver rims. If you have any information you can call the Springfield Police Department.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 1st quarter of 2013. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/08/13 6pm : 30

College students in need of financial aid have some key dates and deadlines coming up. Every high school senior and college student who needs financial aid and plans to attend college this fall, listen up, you need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The deadline is May 1st, but some colleges require the form earlier. It's recommended that students file their applications by the end of the month. FAFSA makes students eligible for federal and state financial aid. On January 27, there will be seminars held across the state to teach parents and students how to complete the application forms. Students can also apply for aid at private colleges, which provided more than \$540 million dollars to Massachusetts students last year. Lawmakers are learning up on financial aid to help their constituents. Lawmakers hope to pass level funding for higher education in the upcoming state budget. The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education says their office receives nearly 400,000 FAFSA forms each year. More information on how to file the form at wwlp.com. Click on onpolitix.

News 01/12/13 6pm : 30

Members of Congress won't get a vote of confidence from the hundreds of high school students at the American International College Model Congress. AIC hosted the three day model congress, where high students from four states debated and voted on issues like increasing U.S. oil production. These politically minded Students told 22News, the recent bickering over the Fiscal Cliff left them with few role models on capital hill.

News 01/14/13 5pm : 30

Students are worried about the future of their education after their school abruptly closed. Dozens of students of the American Career Institute gathered on the steps of Springfield City Hall this morning. The career training school on Cadwell Drive abruptly closed last Wednesday. ACI released a statement that day saying they couldn't get the credit they need, hurting their capability to operate the school.

News 01/14/13 5pm : 30

The government is considering extending the academic year in schools across the country. Imagine your children having more time off in the winter, and less time off in the summer? There's an initiative underway down in Washington right now to extend the school year for students. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is behind this movement that's aimed at making U.S. schools more competitive in the global arena. Before a change is even considered, the concept will be tested out through 2016. This 3 year pilot project will roughly

affect 20,000 students in 40 different schools across the country, including districts right here in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Tennessee and Colorado. Supporters say studies show that students lose too much critical knowledge during those summer months spent away from the classroom. But critics say a shorter summer break would take away from quality family time, outdoor play, and targeted learning.

News

01/23/13

6pm

: 30

Springfield's New Leadership Charter School announced tonight it won't renew its charter. The school will close at the end of this school year meaning all teachers and students will have to find a new classroom next school year. A decision has been made. New Leadership Charter School on Alderman Street in Springfield will not renew its charter license and the school will close its doors after this school year. Board of Trustees Chair Peter Daboul told 22News the state said it was going to recommend not renewing its charter and after evaluating their finances, they agreed. The school currently operates as a Horace Mann charter school. It's a model the board says, simply, isn't working for them. Daboul said they will apply for a commonwealth charter, which he says may work better; the earliest that could take effect is 2014. The hundreds of students will likely be absorbed into Springfield public schools: teachers will have to find a new position although nothing is guaranteed. New Leadership's principal just started his job a few weeks ago. He wouldn't comment on the charter but hopes parents get involved. That meeting he mentioned is happening right now. The board is addressing parents and teachers concerns.

News

01/25/13

5am

: 30

More students are graduating from public high schools in Springfield. The District saw a 4.5% increase to 56.6% in 2012. The School Department says this change didn't happen overnight. They credit things like free summer and night school. Also online recovery courses for people who are behind who would rather learn from home. As well as focus at pivotal times like 9th grade and drop-out tracking indicators early on. However, the school department acknowledges there's still a lot more work to be done. Springfield has the third lowest graduation rate among the state's major districts only behind Holyoke and New Bedford.

News

02/01/13

5:30pm

: 30

School leaders in four Hampshire County communities want to centralize the elementary school system. Students from all four communities attend the same middle school and high school. Now, administrators are working towards condensing the K-6th grade system. The Leverett and Shutesbury schools are in a school union that was created in 1901 with three other towns and Amherst and Pelham have a school union that was also created in 1901. Since 2011, Andrew Steinberg's been working with other school leaders to explore the possibility of consolidating the elementary school system in Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett. The plan would mirror the current regional secondary school system. It's a move that's encouraged by the state, proven to give a firmer fiscal footing. One of the biggest concerns is losing local control. For example, for people here in Pelham,

the Pelham School is more than just an elementary school. It's a place where meet for town meeting, gatherings or fundraisers and parents fear that condensing the system will mean losing that personal history. The community is represented by a security center, next to that is the school, next to that is the town library, and next to that is the town hall, and that's our strip mall, clearly the focal point for adults and children. Committee members have been talking about this for years, but thanks to a state grant, this is the first time they've been able to hire outside experts to explore the impact this move could have on the system. That panel will present their findings tomorrow during a public meeting at the Amherst Regional Middle School; the meeting starts at 1pm.

News **02/06/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The University of Massachusetts is directing a record \$169 million of its own funds toward student financial aid during the current academic year. UMass President Robert Caret said the money helps maintain affordability, access, and keeps student debt manageable. Institutional aid to UMass students has more than doubled in the last few years. UMass students borrowed or were awarded more that \$700 million in all forms of financial aid in 2013.

News **02/26/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Longmeadow high school students got a chance to try out their brand new school today. The state of the art education facility includes 62 multipurpose classrooms with WIFI access throughout. When planning for this project started, many of these high schoolers were still in early elementary school. Longmeadow seniors will only get a couple more months in the new building, but they told 22News it's exciting to be the first class to graduate from there.

News **03/06/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Early education workers are some of the lowest paid public employees in Massachusetts. Springfield Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera is asking House Speaker Robert DeLeo to invest \$25 million dollars in early education workers. Early education workers earn about \$24,000 dollars annually. Coakley-Rivera co-wrote a letter to the House Speaker in support of boosting early educator salaries to about \$25,000 dollar a year. State lawmakers say the lack of raises have made it difficult for early education programs to keep their best educators. State lawmakers are also asking legislative leaders to increase access to early education. As there are currently about 54,000 children on waiting lists across Massachusetts.

News **03/07/13** **12pm** **: 30**

State officials say they want more public school students heading into classes in the morning with full stomachs. They've teamed up to launch an initiative aimed at getting school districts to increase participation in school breakfast programs by 35% during the next two years. They also want districts to offer healthier options on cafeteria menus. The state says stats show 57% of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch don't eat breakfast at school.

News

03/08/13

11pm

: 30

Parents gathered in Greenfield hoping to save the state's only virtual school. It is the first of its kind in the state and the Massachusetts Virtual Academy was just what parents like Sheila Rose needed for her children. But come this summer their school will close its virtual doors. A change in state law shifted oversight of virtual schools from local districts to the state. The chair of the Greenfield School Committee which runs the Massachusetts Virtual Academy said the change made it impractical to run the school anymore. The state does plan on opening up 10 state-run virtual schools in the years to come. But in the meantime the 450 students who attended this one are left without a school. The first few state virtual schools are expected to open in the 2014-15 school year.

News

03/13/13

5:30pm

: 30

A new state report suggests racial diversity in schools helps students do better. The state's education office released a report that suggests schools that promote racial and social diversity have improved rates of graduation and more students who enroll in college. For nearly 50 years, METCO Inc has promoted racial integration by sending minority city children to mostly white suburban schools. For each year since 2006, METCO schools reported graduation rates surpassing 94%. Schools that sent or received students also exceeded or equaled graduation rates of other schools in their districts. The state also found that greater percentages of METCO students expressed interest in pursuing post-secondary education than those from Springfield public schools. There are currently about 3,300 students participating in the METCO program, including four school districts outside Springfield.

News

03/25/13

5pm

: 30

Stay in School, that's the message of a new community wide initiative in Springfield designed to boost daily attendance among city school students. That new campaign kicked off this morning at Putnam Vocational Technical Academy. The Stay in School program will try to increase student attendance. Research shows that daily attendance leads to increased high school graduation rates.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 1st quarter of 2013. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/04/13 5pm : 30

After what was a very warm 2012, 2013 is off to a cold start. It may be cold now but 2012 was the warmest year on record especially for us here in the Northeast. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, for most major cities 2012 was the "hottest" year ever recorded. In New England, Boston; Worcester; Hartford, Connecticut and Burlington, Vermont all broke the record for the warmest annual temperature last year. After some mild weather at the beginning of winter it's feeling more like it should now. Typically we see the coldest weather of the year over the next couple of weeks with our average high temperature around 30 degrees and our average low temperature around 15 degrees. Although last winter we didn't see much at all this year most areas have already seen about 12 inches of snow. On average during the month of January we receive just over 13 inches of snow. Of course there are still about 3 more months of winter left.

News 01/23/13 5:30pm : 30

A blast of arctic air is blanketing Western Massachusetts with temperatures in the teens and single digits. And that teeth-chattering cold wave is expected to keep its icy grip on western Massachusetts into the weekend before we see any relief. A polar air mass has prompted the National Weather Service to issue wind chill advisories across upstate New York and Western Massachusetts. In northern Maine, the temperature dipped to as low as 36 degrees below zero this morning. In the Springfield area residents woke up to temperature just barely above zero and wind chills well below zero. Anyone who had to venture outside felt first hand the numbing effects of today's arctic blast.

News 01/28/13 6pm : 30

This season's weather pattern has been unlike our past two winters. We've struggled to have a normal winter over the past few years. Last year had very little snow, the previous winter had well above average snowfall. This winter has been somewhere in the middle. In a normal cold season we receive about fifty inches of snow in the lower Pioneer Valley. So far just about 15 inches, there's still plenty of time to go. Our weather pattern this winter has meant that snow storms didn't hit us back to back, providing some time in between to recover. This way we're not stocking up on roof rakes and worrying about roof collapses like we were 2 years ago. But instead this winter's weather pattern has made dealing with the snow easier to do. If you wait until tomorrow morning to clean off your car you might have trouble ice and sleet on top of snow could mean tough work before you've even left for work.

News 01/31/13 6pm : 30

Residents throughout western Massachusetts woke up to downed trees and power lines this morning. High wind gusts and heavy rain sent a massive limb crashing down on Western Ave. in Chicopee. A portion of the tree ended up damaging a car and brought down wires. But perhaps what was most shocking is this recent spell of warm weather we've been experiencing in the dead of winter.

News

02/08/13

12pm

: 30

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick is ordering non-emergency state employees to stay home Friday because of the approaching snowstorm. Patrick said Thursday that he's encouraging all schools to close Friday and non-emergency vehicles to stay off the road after noon. He says the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and commuter rail will shut down at 3:30 p.m. The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning for eastern areas of Massachusetts including Cape Cod and the islands. The snow is forecast to begin falling on Friday morning, picking up in intensity during the afternoon with the heaviest Friday night into early Saturday. Winds up to 40 mph with gusts up to 65 mph combined with heavy snowfall are expected to make travel dangerous. Widespread 2-foot snow accumulations are expected. Governor Deval Patrick warned Massachusetts residents that power restoration won't start until the storm ends so people are stocking up and bracing for power outages that could last for several days. Western Massachusetts Electric Company spokeswoman Priscilla Ress told 22News they plan to respond to any storm damage and related power outages as long as wind speeds are less than 40 miles per hour. In the event winds are higher than that, the bucket trucks are not able to be lifted up to make those repairs safely. Ress also said Western Massachusetts is anticipating what is labeled as a "Level 2" storm while the eastern part of the state is bracing for a "Level 5" (National Grid's highest classification). WMECO has placed all of its employees on high alert and is notifying cities and towns of their plans. The President and COO of WMECO, Peter Clarke said, "The company is prepared for the adverse weather conditions, including difficult working and driving due to the snow and wind. Safety is our number one priority and crews will respond to any emergencies as quickly and safely as possible." Route 10 and 202, streets not really covered with snow yet, roads were wet but the grass started to have a coating of snow like we're seeing now.

News

02/08/13

12pm

: 30

There's no denying, this was a storm of historic proportions. It is one for the record books. It wasn't just any normal winter storm, that widespread of large snowfall is certainly a historic storm and in many respects this was almost like a winter hurricane. Wind gusts in Western Massachusetts were around 50 miles per hour. And snow blanketed a massive region. But was it the worst we've ever seen? In reality, this storm was worse with snowfall totals over 20 inches in many areas; far surpassing the 14.5 inches that came down in 1978. But today, our technology has improved allowing us to recover much quicker. But that doesn't mean we didn't get stuck in it. Another problem with this storm was the wind which caused the snow to drift and accumulate several feet in some areas. But even with the drift and record setting snowfall totals, it's just another winter.

News **02/11/13** **5pm** **: 30**

The 22News storm team added up the numbers and the February nor'easter will go down as a historic storm. It wasn't the most snow we've had out of a snow storm, but it was close. In Chicopee we received 19.6" of snow from February 8th and 9th. As far as snow storms go, this is the third highest snowfall in a storm. Ranking behind a late February storm in 1949 which dumped 22 inches and a mid February storm in 1958 which dumped 20 inches. People I spoke with aren't surprised this storm is high on the list.

News **02/18/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Friday's Temperatures were close to 50 degrees, but we turned much colder over the weekend and today especially. February is not normally the coldest time of the year, but our recent cold and wind had temperatures feeling more like January. Just when you thought we were climbing out of our winter cold, the wind and the chill is back in the air. Winds gusted close to 30 miles per hour at times Monday, making president's day sledding activities harder to enjoy comfortably. When wind combines with the cold, it feels much colder on your exposed skin. Beginning in mid march you can start indoor planting of seeds like tomatoes, peppers and broccoli among others. You won't be able to move the plants outside until after the last "hard" freeze, typically mid-may.

News **02/20/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Changes in temperature above the ground have a big effect on how hard the ground is below the surface. A deep frost can stop you from planting, but it can also put construction projects on hold because the ground is too hard. Typically in the winter the ground is frozen for the first 12-18 inches. Our warm winter last year kept frost to a minimum and our milder weather the past couple of weeks has reduced our frost depth to between 2 and 4 inches.

News **02/26/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

If you've thought this winter was already expensive for heating, you may be in for an unwelcome surprise. January is typically our coldest month, but you may be paying for that cold now, in February. This has certainly been more of a normal cold and snowy winter compared to our mild and almost snowless winter a year ago. Colder temperatures this winter over last are already making a big difference in your heating bill. It's possible that your heating expense is about to get much bigger. Around January 22nd we had some very cold air in western Massachusetts. Those dates could have been included on your February heating bill making it the most expensive of the winter. If your January heating bill included through the end of January then it's likely you've already paid for our big January freeze.

News **03/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

There are a number of industries that thrive in cold weather here in western Massachusetts. Among them; maple syrup producers, but even this late winter may be too cold. Call it a "too much of a good thing" situation. Last winter was too warm for a lot of producers, this season

it's better, but borderline too cold. Cold nights and warmer days is the recipe to boiling thousands of gallons of maple syrup each year. But with overnight temperatures dipping near 10 degrees in this first week of Spring, producers say, it might just be too cold. Despite the 'less than ideal' conditions, customers say the quality of the syrup is still second to none. Chip Williams of Williams Farm Sugarhouse says they're hoping to produce a total of 25 hundred gallons of syrup by the end of this season...a goal they can meet when temperatures warm up a bit. And when they do, loyal customers say they'll be there to buy it, because, after all, it's what makes our region special. If you'd like to visit a sugarhouse, we'll help you find one on our website, wwlp.com.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 1st quarter of 2013. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/02/13 6pm : 30

The 188th Massachusetts Legislature began a new session on Beacon Hill today. A new state Senate and House of Representatives were sworn into office and both branches agree on what will be topping their agendas in the next two-year session. Transportation and gun violence top the legislative agendas of Governor Deval Patrick, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senate President Therese Murray this year. House Speaker DeLeo reflected on the mass shootings in Newtown, Connecticut and called for a study on guns and mental illness. His top priority however is making sure the state's roads, bridges and tunnels are kept in good repair. To maintain our roads, lawmakers face the major challenge of reducing a budget gap of billions dollars over the next 25 years in the state's transportation department. All options are on the table, including tax hikes, which Republicans are against. Senate President Therese Murray also called on lawmakers to reexamine sex offender registration and address public health issues that led to a meningitis outbreak and state lab scandal last year.

News 01/02/13 5:30pm : 30

A new class of lawmakers was sworn in on Beacon Hill in Boston today. Western Massachusetts' newest state rep outlined his plans for this session for 22news State House Reporter Christine Lee. 16 new lawmakers were sworn into the House of Representatives, including Holyoke Representative Aaron Vega. Vega is the only newcomer from Western Massachusetts. He says his focus this session will be on job creation and finding ways to make growing businesses easier for young entrepreneurs. Representative Vega echoed House Speaker Robert DeLeo's call for transportation and infrastructure development, and plans to make sure Holyoke has a voice in those talks. Representative Vega served two terms as a Holyoke City Councilor at-large. He was born in South Holyoke and owns a yoga studio with his wife Debra.

News 01/03/13 11pm : 30

Attorney Laura Gentile of Springfield was sworn in as the new Hampden county clerk of courts tonight. Retired superior court Judge Brian McDonald led the swearing-in, held at Gentile's alma mater Western New England University. Gentile has worked as the assistant clerk of courts for 16 years, and she told 22news that experience will serve her well as she moves into her new role.

News **01/05/13** **6am** **: 30**

And the newest senator will hold a reception and ceremonial swearing in today. Senator Elizabeth Warren is holding the ceremony for constituents who were unable to attend the officials wearing in ceremony on Thursday in Washington. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan will perform the swearing in at 2pm at Roxbury Community College in Boston.

News **01/16/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick wants to increase the state income tax by one percent and lower the sales tax by almost 2%. The thousands of people who ride the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority buses in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties were spared a fare increase last year. Tim Brennan of the Pioneer Valley Planning commission told 22News money from the Governor's proposed income tax hike would allow the PVTA to keep fares from going higher hike this year as well, and restore service that had to be cut in recent years. Customers at Easthampton's Silver Spoon restaurant have strong opinions about the proposed income tax increase. The Governor said the sales tax he hopes to reduce from 6.25% to 4.5%. He believes the sales tax tends to have a disproportionately bigger impact on lower and middle income people.

News **01/18/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray announced he will not run for governor in 2014. It had been widely believed that Murray was laying the groundwork for a campaign to succeed Gov. Patrick, who has ruled out running for a third term. Lt. Gov. Murray has spent the last 15 years in local and statewide public office. But he said today he will not be a candidate for governor in 2014, nor will he seek any other statewide office. Murray said it was a difficult decision, but he did not see how he could juggle a campaign for governor while still maintaining his responsibilities as lieutenant governor and his commitments to his wife and two young daughters. The governor and lieutenant governor were in Worcester today to talk about their growth strategy, investing in education, innovation and infrastructure, and Murray said their work in this administration isn't done.

News **01/23/13** **12pm** **: 30**

The lengthy state budget process officially begins, as Gov Patrick files his spending plan for the next fiscal year. The Governor has already revealed several key aspects of the budget being sent to the Legislature today. He's seeking to hike the income tax rate from 5.25% to 6.25% while lowering the sales tax from 6.25% to 4.5%. The net revenue increase would help fund transportation and education initiatives. The exact level of proposed state spending for the fiscal year starting July 1st will be revealed in Patrick's budget request. The current budget exceeds \$32 billion, but lower-than-expected tax collections recently prompted the governor to trim spending by \$540 million. Lawmakers are expected to spend several months reviewing the spending plan.

News **01/28/13** **12pm** **: 30**

The state's third U.S. Senate election in four years could officially begin this week if John Kerry is confirmed to become the nation's next secretary of state. The expected confirmation would require Kerry to resign from the office he's held for nearly three decades. At that point Gov. Patrick would have to set the date for a special election 145 to 160 day after Kerry's resignation. That would place the election during this summer. Gov. Patrick will also have to name an interim appointee to serve temporarily in Kerry's seat. Democratic U.S. Representative Edward Markey has already announced he will seek the seat. Fellow Democratic Representative Stephen Lynch is also considering a run and could make an announcement this week. In addition former U.S. Senator Scott Brown is considering running on the Republican side.

News **01/29/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The Senate has approved President Barack Obama's nomination of Senator John Kerry to be the next secretary of state. The Senate voted in favor of Kerry by a 94-3 vote. Kerry has served on the Foreign Relations panel for 28 years and led the committee for the past four.

News **01/30/13** **5pm** **: 30**

The permanent position for that Senate seat will be decided in a special election. Tomorrow, Democratic Congressman Stephen Lynch will launch a tour of Massachusetts during which he's expected to announce his candidacy. Lynch will begin the tour in Springfield at O'Brien's Corner restaurant.

News **01/31/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Senator John Kerry stopped in Springfield this morning to say thanks to longtime supporters. Kerry is making one last tour across Massachusetts before he leaves the Senate and becomes Secretary of State tomorrow. He met Mayor Domenic Sarno, Congressman Richard Neal, and longtime backers at Youthbuild in Springfield late this morning. Kerry relied on support from western Massachusetts voters in several big campaigns including an unsuccessful run for President in 2004.

News **02/01/13** **6pm** **: 30**

John Kerry is officially the 68th Secretary of State. He took the oath of office in a private ceremony in Washington late this afternoon. Kerry's resignation from the U.S. senate became effective at 4 this afternoon. Earlier today Hillary Clinton formally resigned capping a four-year tenure in the office that saw her shatter previous records for countries visited.

News **02/02/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Western Massachusetts Republicans are disappointed by Scott Brown's decision not to run in the special election to replace John Kerry. In a largely democratic state party official saw Brown as the strongest possible Republican candidate. The Amherst College Republicans

booked the former senator for an event next weekend. The group's president said he spoke to Brown this afternoon about the decision.

News **02/03/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Two Eastern Massachusetts Congressmen have already campaigned in Springfield for Secretary of State John Kerry's former Senate seat. Now it appears Congressmen Edward Markey and Stephen Lynch may be opposed by Middlesex county district attorney Gerald Leone. Friends and political ally's have reportedly given 50 year old Leone strong support to enter the race. Congressman Markey appealed for votes in Springfield on Saturday. He's promised to support President Obama's social and economic policies. This past Thursday, Congressman Lynch visited the city looking for Springfield support. Lynch described himself as the candidate for working people. Massachusetts voters will go to the polls for a special primary election the end of April.

News **02/07/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Kerry is out and "Mo" Cowan is officially in. He was sworn in today. Massachusetts officially has a new U.S. Senator. William "Mo" Cowan was sworn in as Interim Senator to replace John Kerry who resigned to become Secretary of State. Now, the question is, what can we expect from Cowan during his time in office. Cowan has already said he will not run for the seat in June. Some people say whether it's an interim Senator or a permanent replacement, they just want Western Massachusetts included in their decision making. Congressmen Ed Markey and Stephen Lynch have said they will run for the seat. A number of republicans have said they will NOT run including former Sen. Scott Brown and former Governor Bill Weld.

News **02/14/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Lawmakers want the Patrick administration to explain how their tax proposals will help more than they hurt. Governor Deval Patrick wants to increase your taxes but balance that out with exemptions that his budget team says won't impact most families much, but lawmakers are cautious of those claims. State lawmakers grilled Governor Deval Patrick's top budget chief on tax reforms that call on Massachusetts taxpayers to dig deeper into their pockets. They range from increasing the income tax from 5.25% to 6.25%, lowering the state sales tax and eliminating corporate tax deductions. But Administration and Finance Secretary Glen Shor defended the governor's tax reforms in his state budget, saying the overall impact will have mid to low income families paying the same or less in taxes. Secretary Shor says the governor's budget will raise billions in revenue, making it possible to significantly invest in transportation and education and stimulate economic growth. But lawmakers questioned whether the governor's \$35 billion dollar spending budget asks taxpayers for too much, too fast. The Patrick administration says its necessary to make investments now to stimulate economic growth and that doing nothing could cost the state millions of dollars in the form of deteriorating roads, bridges and public transportation.

News

02/15/13

5:30pm

: 30

State lawmakers aren't being very receptive to the governor's tax proposals. State legislators are cautioning the Patrick administration that it may be too early to press for tax hikes when the economy is in recovery. Lawmakers noted that they've had to take a \$1,100 dollar pay cut this year because their salaries are tied to the median family income, which has gone down. Senator Stephen Brewer of Barre said taxpayers may not be ready for Governor Deval Patrick's proposed income tax increase to 6.25%. The administration's budget leader said a boost in revenue is needed for crucial state investments. Administration and Finance Secretary Glen Shor says the governor's tax plan as a whole ensures most families making up to \$60,000 dollars will pay the same or less in taxes.

News

02/25/13

6pm

: 30

Democratic Congressmen Stephen Lynch and Ed Markey have agreed to six debates in their race for the Massachusetts U.S. Senate special election nomination to replace John Kerry. The candidates announced today they will hold three general issues debates, in Boston, Worcester and Springfield. Other debates will focus on jobs and the economy, domestic policy and foreign policy. Two of the debates will be in Lowell and New Bedford. The sixth location has yet to be determined. The primary is April 30. Republican hopefuls include Norfolk state Rep. Daniel Winslow, businessman Gabriel Gomez and former U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan.

News

03/01/13

6pm

: 30

The Federal Cuts won't be felt immediately here in Massachusetts? The governor says automatic federal spending cuts could impact the defense sector and education, which could mean a substantial loss of jobs and resources across the state. Governor Deval Patrick says Massachusetts could lose hundreds of millions of dollars because of across the board federal spending cuts, known as sequestration, are set to go into effect March 1st. According to Massachusetts Congressman Ed Markey, more than 60,000 jobs, mostly in defense, could be lost in the state, and \$127 million dollars in federal research funding could be cut. But the Patrick administration says the impact is uncertain and will not be immediate. Massachusetts Republicans say federal spending cuts are necessary in light of the country's mountainous debt, but they say sequestration should not have been the solution. Social Security, Medicaid and food stamps will be exempt from the sequester cuts. Medicare will be cut by about 2 percent and defense spending cut by about 8%.

News

03/06/13

5:30pm

: 30

Early education workers are some of the lowest paid public employees in Massachusetts. Springfield Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera is asking House Speaker Robert DeLeo to invest \$25 million dollars in early education workers. Early education workers earn about \$24,000 dollars annually. Coakley-Rivera co-wrote a letter to the House Speaker in support of boosting early educator salaries to about \$25,000 dollar a year. State lawmakers say the lack of raises have made it difficult for early education programs to keep their best educators.

State lawmakers are also asking legislative leaders to increase access to early education. As there are currently about 54,000 children on waiting lists across Massachusetts.

News **03/06/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick wants to raise our income tax, but the proposal faces a lot of opposition from local elected officials, like Agawam City Councilors. They say increasing the state income tax by one percent would hurt every working person. Many people told 22News in this economy, smaller paychecks will mean not being able to buy essentials like food.

News **03/07/13** **6pm** **: 30**

The governor's transportation and education agenda calls for major tax reforms. Last session, House Speaker Robert DeLeo promised no new taxes, but this year, he's committing to raise some revenue to invest in the state's transportation and education system. House Speaker Robert DeLeo says any new revenue package state lawmakers pass will be smaller in size than what the Patrick administration has proposed. These past few months, DeLeo has been evaluating the governor's tax reforms that raise the state income tax and eliminate over 40 personal exemptions. Ultimately, DeLeo worries the Patrick administration's tax proposals could place too heavy a burden on working families and businesses struggling to survive. But he also believes the state needs to invest in transportation and education to create jobs. Governor Patrick's tax reform proposals raise nearly \$2 billion dollars in revenue. Western Massachusetts lawmakers respect the governor's ambition, but echo the House Speaker's restraint. Speaker DeLeo has also proposed a new and intense community college program called STEM Starter Academy that uses gaming revenue to train students for jobs.

News **03/15/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Many state lawmakers are cautious of the governor's new tax reform plan. State lawmakers are concerned about their re-election prospects should they back Governor Deval Patrick's state income tax hike proposal. Governor Patrick, who is not seeking a third term in 2014, understands the risk. Many lawmakers agree with House Speaker Robert DeLeo's position to support a smaller version of the governor's goals. But the governor says he'll use his campaign resources to help lawmakers who lend him their full support. Governor Patrick went onto say that lawmakers should speak to voters like grownups; in 2009, he was advised not to sign a sales tax increase if he was concerned about being re-elected governor. Patrick says he explained to voters why the tax increase was necessary and eventually won his second term in office.

News **03/18/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Beacon Hill lawmakers have yet to pas any major bills in the first few months of the new legislative session. State lawmakers are getting ready for a big state budget debate this spring that has the governor asking for tax increases and major investment plans. State lawmakers have been focused on Governor Deval Patrick's proposal to increase taxes and raise more than \$2 billion dollars annually for transportation and education investments.

Western Massachusetts lawmakers support the governor's goals, but are cautious of his revenue raising proposals that include increasing the state income tax to 6.25 percent and decreasing the state sales tax to 4.5%. They're seeking affordable tax reforms that keep the state competitive with the rest of New England. Legislative leaders held a meeting with the governor Monday afternoon. Despite being flanked by their budget chiefs, Senate President Therese Murray said they did not discuss how they were going to raise revenues. House Speaker Robert DeLeo says state lawmakers are looking for a "magic number" for revenues needed to update the state's education and transportation system.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 1st quarter of 2013. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/02/13 6pm : 30

Flu activity continues to increase around the country, including Hampshire County. The CDC says the number of visits to doctors for influenza-like illnesses is above the national average, for the third consecutive week. A Cooley Dickinson Hospital spokeswoman told 22News, to date, the hospital has admitted 9 inpatients with flu; a much higher rate than in a usual year since they typically don't see these patients until February; after students return from winter break. Its ER is seeing several patients with flu symptoms on most days, with laboratories averaging 3-5 positive tests/day. Hospitalization rates are highest among people 65 and older.

News 01/03/13 5:30pm : 30

By May 1st, the Department of Public Health is expected to release the regulations and conditions that will govern 35 medical marijuana treatment centers in the state of Massachusetts. By a 2-1 margin, Massachusetts voters approved the use of medical marijuana last November. We finally passed a law legalizing marijuana and creating community options because the threat to our state is no worse than a bottle of Johnny Walker. The law calls for 35 medical marijuana treatment centers across the state, at least one but no more than five in every county. One of the biggest concerns is how the production and sale of the drug will be regulated. The department of public health will oversee the operations of these dispensaries. These dispensaries will be a non-profit meaning they won't pay some taxes. And anyone with a registration card can buy up to a 60 day supply. A lot of law enforcement think it's a real drain on energies to enforce what they feel is something unenforceable. Qualifying patients, those with debilitating medical conditions like cancer or multiple sclerosis, would be eligible to register. But there's still a catch, the production and sale of marijuana is considered illegal under federal law.

News 01/11/13 6pm : 30

It's been estimated that only sixty percent of Western Massachusetts' potential flu sufferers have actually gotten their flu shots. Springfield's deputy public health director told 22News, the center for disease control would hope for a 90 percent protection level. Some people however are against getting the flu vaccine, and some who've gotten their flu shot still get the flu.

News 01/11/13 5:30pm : 30

The Massachusetts Nurses Association is coming out against the governor's plan to reform retiree health insurance benefits. Governor Deval Patrick plans to file legislation that the Massachusetts Nurses Association says will force retired public workers to pay more for their health care. Patrick announced that his legislation increases the minimum years of service public workers must work from 10 to 20 years to qualify for retiree health benefits. It also increases the minimum age of eligibility to 60-years-old for most employees. Patrick said the reforms will save as much as \$20 billion dollars over the next 30 years for the Commonwealth. In a statement, an MNA spokesperson said "How dare the governor penalize the public sector when we are all suffering from an economic climate that was put in distress by corporate interests and Wall Street banks that destroyed our economy." It continues to say that nurses often stay in low paying jobs because of the benefits the state provides them.

News **01/11/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

During this flu outbreak many in Western Massachusetts have refused to get a flu shot. The Department of Public Health in Springfield says those people aren't just putting themselves in jeopardy but they're endangering everyone they come in contact with.

News **01/12/13** **6am** **: 30**

18 people have died in Massachusetts because of the flu. But experts say the worst of the flu season may be over. During the first week of January the number of people visiting doctor's offices with flu-like symptoms decreased, a sign that the flu season may have reached its peak. But that doesn't necessarily mean that everything can now go back to normal. In Boston, a child has died after being diagnosed with the flu, although it's not confirmed yet if that was the direct cause of the death. However, with at least 700 confirmed cases of the flu in Massachusetts, health officials say people should continue to take precautions to avoid the illness. A healthy balanced diet, along with getting enough sleep, should boost your immune system. So if you do get sick, your symptoms will not be as severe. Healthy habits alone will not protect you against the flu though. Flu shots are recommended for everyone, especially the elderly, children and pregnant women. You can get flu shots at your doctor's office and local pharmacies. Today there is a free flu clinic in Northampton at Greenfield Savings Bank on King Street from 9am to noon.

News **01/14/13** **5am** **: 30**

Women's rights groups are meeting on Beacon Hill ahead of the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Next Tuesday is the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, a Supreme Court case that protects a woman's right to an abortion. Lawmakers and advocates are marking the event by lobbying for legislation on a number of reproductive health issues. For example, they're promoting a bill that requires sex education in public schools to be medically accurate. They're also opposing legislation that requires women seeking abortions to receive information that could possibly coerce or shame them away from receiving those services. Women lawmakers say they're concerned about a number of proposed bills and amendments seeking to limit access to abortion, contraception, and family planning across the country.

News **01/23/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Biotechnology executives and state lawmakers are discussing changes to policy that allows pharmacists to substitute prescription drugs with generic medicine. The review comes as federal regulators prepare to license bio-similars, cheaper but not identical, versions of biologic drugs. Advocates say the review should ensure patients receive high-quality, safe and effective biologic drugs.

News **01/25/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Doctors have been urging people to get the flu shot because of the influenza outbreak. But as 22News reporter Shannon Halligan tells us, there's a new virus that's caused more than 140 outbreaks in the US. One researcher is calling it the "Ferrari of Viruses" for the speed at which it passes through a large group of people. That's the Norovirus. The virus is highly contagious. It's sometimes mistakenly called the stomach flu but the virus causes vomiting and diarrhea sometimes for a few days. This year the Centers for Disease Control reports there's a new strain of the stomach bug that's taken over. The "Sydney" strain accounts for about 60 percent of norovirus outbreaks. And it's when a new strain spreads that many people get so sick.

News **02/14/13** **11pm** **: 30**

You'll no longer have to wait for a special drug drop-off day to get rid of unwanted medications. Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan announced today they're setting up 15 permanent drug drop-off boxes across Hampshire and Franklin Counties. Sullivan said the increase in prescription drug abuse emphasizes the importance of keeping un-needed medications out of the hands of those who might abuse them.

News **02/19/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

22News reporter Anaridis Rodriguez tells us how a state grant is helping Tapestry Health reach more women. Close to 40,000 women die from breast cancer every year. The CDC says breast cancer screenings help detect the disease earlier by checking for cancer before there are signs or symptoms. And thanks to a Department of Public Health grant, Tapestry Health's eight clinics can now offer some women free screenings. Medical experts say women over 40 should get a mammogram every year. Assistant Director of Health Services Ann Poole says their program helps women understand the benefits of breast exams and assists them in coordinating their care.

News **02/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Western Massachusetts is part of today's nation-wide effort to stop kids from using smokeless tobacco. 22News reporter Anaridis Rodriguez joins us live with details on the habit known as "dipping." Today is The Great American Spit Out. Health officials are

encouraging teens to commit to staying tobacco free for 24-hours. The American Cancer Society says the use of smokeless tobacco products is becoming a concern among teens. And big tobacco companies are being blamed. A recent Surgeon's General report says big tobacco companies continue to target kids by creating colorful packaging and sweeter flavors. The Institute of Drug Abuse found that in 2009, 13% of high school boys were actively using smokeless tobacco products.

News **02/27/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The clock is ticking to figure out how Massachusetts' medical marijuana law will work. We are looking at a May 1st deadline. That's two months for the Department of Public Health to get all these regulations in place. The law has been passed, but the medical marijuana debate continues in Massachusetts. The Department of Public Health held its third and final listening session at Holyoke Community College. A packed conference room of people concerned about how the law will be regulated. Multiple sclerosis will qualify, so will cancer, glaucoma, AIDS, Hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's and Parkinson disease patients and some other unclear conditions. This is for conditions that are debilitated and have an adverse impact on a person's ability to live their life. One issue that hasn't been decided is how you will have to prove that you need it. People are going to have to demonstrate that it is a debilitating conditions not an inconvenience or a minor problem, so we're going to have to wrestle with that. Commissioner Smith told 22News they are working hard to meet that May 1st deadline, but did quite guarantee that they will.

News **03/06/13** **11pm** **: 30**

A trip to Africa inspired a local church to open up a free medical clinic in Agawam. The new covenant free clinic is open the first Tuesday of every month from six to eight p.m. It's being co-sponsored by the new covenant community services and Bethany Assembly of God. A staff of licensed medical workers is volunteering their time to help those who cannot afford the care they need. Recently the staff treated a person the turned out to have a serious illness and was unaware.

News **03/12/13** **6pm** **: 30**

The state's Department of Public Health is expected to release the regulations that will govern medical marijuana centers by May 1st. And as 22News reporter Anaridis Rodriguez tell us, having dispensaries in the district will help some businesses. The law will allow for 35 medical marijuana treatment centers, at least one, but no more than five in each of the state's 14 counties. Qualified patients who register with the state will be able to buy up to a 60-day supply of marijuana. Because of this, businesses like The Hempest have noticed an increased number of people looking for smoking products. Manager Matt Ford says demand for this type of glassware has led to them expand their inventory.

News **03/20/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Big tobacco companies won't have to put graphic warning labels on their cigarette packs. The Food and Drug Administration has decided not to challenge a court ruling that said the shocking images violated the tobacco companies' free-speech protections. Attorney General Eric Holder says the f-d-a will propose new labels, but that could take a few years. The CDC says cigarette smoking is the leading cause of "preventable death" in the United States, killing about 443,000 people per year as of 2004.

News **03/22/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Higher Income, cigarette and gas taxes could be in our near future. Massachusetts needs to find ways to make money to pay for transportation spending. Governor Deval Patrick proposed raising the income tax from 5.25 % to 6.25%. In a radio interview House Speaker Robert DeLeo said he doesn't believe the state house will back raising income tax a full point. Although, DeLeo says the Governor's proposal to raise cigarette taxes from \$2.51 per pack to \$3.51 per pack is getting a serious look, something that non-smokers don't have much of a problem with. Speaker DeLeo says they're talking about adding 15 cents to that in the next three years. Regardless of what the people want, many think the state will just find ways to raise their taxes anyway. The House and Ways committee is currently examining the Governor's budget. Only step 2 of 9 before a budget is passed.

News **03/27/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Hampshire County Health rankings are among the top in the state. But despite that positive rating, 22News reporter Anaridis Rodriguez tells us how there's still room for improvement. Hampshire County is among the top five healthiest counties in the state. But a recent County Health Rankings found more than 10,000 people in Hampshire County have trouble accessing healthy foods; mainly because they don't have access to transportation. A new State Department of Public Health initiative aims to change that. Healthy Hampshire Markets Program Coordinator Sarah Bankert says they are reaching out to the managers and owners of small markets and asking them to increase the number of healthy products available at their stores.

News **03/29/13** **6pm** **: 30**

The state has released draft medical marijuana regulations. New state regulations allow doctors to prescribe a two-month supply of up to 10 ounces of marijuana, but the regulations are not final yet. After a month of public input, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has released draft regulations that allow doctors to prescribe marijuana for medicinal purposes. To receive marijuana, doctors must determine if their patients have a debilitating medical condition, for example, a serious illness that prevents you from being able to move around your home. Still, lawmakers are concerned the drug could be abused. Patients will be allowed to carry a 2-month supply of up to 10 ounces of marijuana. More can be prescribed in limited circumstances. Marijuana plants will be cultivated in up to 35 Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers across the state. Kids under 18-years-old will require approval from a parent or guardian, plus two certified doctors. The public has until April 20th to

comment on these draft regulations.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 1st quarter of 2013. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 01/03/13 12pm : 30

The latest numbers are out this and more Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week. The labor department reports that weekly applications for unemployment benefits rose by 10,000 to 372,000. But the figure was likely distorted due to the holidays. Many state unemployment offices were closed and did not submit complete data for last week. Tomorrow the government will release December's jobs report.

News 01/04/13 5am : 30

The December jobs report comes out today. The economy added 146,000 jobs in November. Analysts expect between 150,000 to 200,000 jobs were added last month, but economists warn that increase could be short-lived and due in part from the after effects of hurricane sandy.

News 01/05/13 11pm : 30

Today was the first Friday of the New Year; "Payday" for a lot of people. And there was an unwelcome "pay-day surprise" in this first check of the 2013, the net pay was smaller. The payroll tax holiday expired at the end of 2012; which means you're paying another two percent for your social security tax. This was extremely poor timing especially for workers who hoped for their annual raise to kick in at the start of the year.

News 01/16/13 5:30pm : 30

Twenty workers lost their jobs at Berry Plastics in Easthampton this week, and the company said employees they may be working shorter weeks over the next couple of months. 20 salaried and hourly workers received layoff notices today and Tuesday at Berry Plastics in Easthampton. The layoffs were effective immediately. Berry Plastics Communications Director Eva Schmitz told 22News that current economic conditions forced the workforce reductions. Schmitz said the remaining 315 workers were told that if demand doesn't improve, they may have to shorten the work week by one day each week this winter.

News 01/22/13 5:30pm : 30

Massachusetts unemployment's hovering around 6.7%. Americorps, the VA Medical Center in Leeds and Massachusetts One Stop Career Center have teamed up to help veterans find jobs they actually like and want; so today these groups held workshops in Leeds. Workshops took about 20 veterans through the process of writing and editing their resumes, cover letters and even conducting mock interviews. Veterans got to leave the workshop with a USB drive containing their new resumes and other helpful job-search information. They told 22News

learning more about exactly what employers look for in candidates will help them in a long run.

News **01/23/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Five years after the start of the recession, many middle-class jobs are gone and may never come back. Computers, robots and other devices have slowly saturated the labor market, reducing the need for many jobs. The associated press found that out of the 7.5 million jobs lost during the recession, most were in industries that paid middle income wages. But the majority of jobs that have returned are low paying jobs. And Western New England University Economics Professor Karl Petrick expects the situation to only get worse.

News **01/25/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Twelve full-time and part time employees at Holyoke Health Center lost their jobs this week. Executive Director of the Health Center Jay Brien said in a statement to 22News that the decision came after contracts and grants either ended or the funding was reduced. The affected employees worked in the health center's medical records department. The center is currently transitioning to electronic medical records. The company has about 300 employees at six different locations.

News **01/25/13** **12pm** **: 30**

Toy maker Hasbro says its fourth-quarter revenue failed to meet expectations because of weaker-than-expected demand over the holidays. It plans to cut about 10% of its workforce and consolidate facilities to cut expenses. And that could impact the company's plant in East Longmeadow. The stock dropped more than 4% in Pre-marketed trading today. The Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based company whose brands include Monopoly and Nerf has about 5,500 employees worldwide. A 10% workforce cut would put about 550 people out of work. Spokesman Wayne Charness says the cuts will all be this year and will occur globally. He says the facility consolidations could include some closures. Hasbro anticipates fourth quarter revenue of 1.28 billion. Unfavorable foreign currency exchange rates lowered results by \$8 million. Shares declined 4.6% to \$36.70 before the market open this morning.

News **01/31/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Also on the job front tonight, jobless claims bounced higher last week, after falling to a five-year low earlier this month. The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose to 368-thousand last week. That's up 38-thousand from the previous week. The news comes a day before the government's monthly reports on payrolls and unemployment.

News **01/31/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Worker's rights have been expanded for thousands of temporary workers in Massachusetts. Governor Deval Patrick signed this law last August, saying it provides temporary workers a

basic bill of rights. The legislation protects the estimated 100,000 temporary workers from potentially being exploited. Under the new law, employment agencies will need to provide temporary workers with information like wage details, the number of hours they're expected to work and even the name of the employer. But Scott Kenfield of Northampton's Masiello Employment Services says these conditions are industry standards. Kenfield told 22News the new legislation will weed out those agencies that intentionally conceal this type of information.

News **02/04/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Future Works Career Center is hosting a Job fair at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield tonight. With the Mass. Unemployment rate holding steady at 6.7% the job market is still very competitive out there. But today, western Mass. residents have a chance to land an interview and possibly be hired.

News **02/05/13** **5am** **: 30**

Hundreds of job seekers met with Western Massachusetts employers like Yankee Candle, Springfield Technical Community College and Six Flags New England on Monday. Futureworks Career Center held a career fair at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Many companies accepted resumes and cover letters from as many as 700 people looking for work. Job seekers told 22News they hope to see more expos like this because it's tough to find well-paying jobs in this economy.

News **02/13/13** **6pm** **: 30**

ITT Exelis here in West Springfield is closing down and moving operations to Rochester New York. Nearly 200 people in the area will be laid off on June 28th. The office is located off of Interstate Avenue. They are a global aerospace, defense and information solutions company. Spokesperson Jared Adams told the decision was made because of an anticipated reduction in US defense spending, the drawing down of forces overseas and the threat of sequestration on March 1st. Many of the workers say they've worked at this location for more than half of their lives and moving on will be very difficult.

News **02/14/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Are you thinking about switching jobs? More and more people are. New Labor Department data shows that the number of people voluntarily leaving their jobs is on the rise. And a warning for employers experts suggest that more people may quit this year. This comes as more job openings and better pay options start to become available. But some people in western Massachusetts say there are still those who are just thankful to have a job and are not ready to leave just yet.

News **02/19/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The outlook for the U.S. job market brightened a little after a government report showed a sharp drop in people applying for unemployment benefits. The job market is tough for anyone unemployed and searching for work. But one group is facing added struggles. Standing out in a growing crowd of job seekers is a daunting task if you're unemployed. Now there is a new group joining the ranks of the unemployed, young veterans who recently returned home. With little experience outside the military, those who specialize in veteran's employment issues say crafting a strong resume is crucial. There has been a wide range of private and public efforts to curb the impact federal agencies are giving vets preference, there tax credits for companies that hire vets and programs that help vets go back to school instead of entering the job market. But, the unemployment rate for veterans under the age of 25 is much higher than the national average; a struggle that's becoming more common across the board. Job Centers like career point say job seekers should ask for help to navigate the process. Many programs for vets are still under utilized.

News **02/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

There's a new push on Beacon Hill to raise the minimum wage to \$11.00 an hour in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is not only considered a high cost-of-living state but it's also known as having one of the highest minimum wages in the country ringing in at \$8 an hour. That's \$.75 more than the federal wage. Some say it's still not enough as gas prices home heating costs and groceries continue to rise dramatically. But one small business owner told 22News an eleven dollar an hour minimum wage leads to hiring cutbacks.

News **02/21/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Hundreds of young people are asking lawmakers to fund summer jobs for them. Young people say they need jobs to build real world skills and stay out of trouble but teen summer employment has fallen from about 54 percent in 2000 to 27% last year. Young people from across the state marched to the State House in support of funding for youth summer jobs. Organizers are asking lawmakers for up to \$16 million dollars in funding for two key youth jobs programs. Youth advocates want lawmakers to fund \$11 million dollars for a program that provides salaries to young people working at non-profit companies. They're asking for another \$5 million dollars for programs that recruit and train teens for private sector work. Young people say employment keeps them out of trouble. Organizers are also supporting Governor Deval Patrick's tax reforms that create nearly \$2 billion in new revenue by increasing the state income tax and eliminating certain tax deductions. A group of kids from Springfield were part of the event, but they left early because they weren't dressed warmly enough for the cold.

News **02/26/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Across the board automatic spending cuts will kick in this Friday. Unless Congress acts by March 1st, \$85 billion in automatic cuts will take place. Heating assistance and nutrition programs for women are among the many government services at risk. The White House says that in Massachusetts, more than 26,000 people will not get the training and help they need to find employment. This reduction in spending will also cut money from federal jobless

benefits. You'll see an estimated \$30 less in your federal unemployment check. State labor officials say more than 234,000 people were out of a job in Massachusetts last December. That's not including those who have given up and stopped searching.

News **03/01/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Just two months in, 2013 has already been a financially difficult year for many people. Americans' income dropped so dramatically in January, that it marked the deepest one-month decline in 20 years. Personal income went down by more than 500 billion dollars from December. This happened because of a combination of one-time events. Many companies paid out dividends early, which boosted people's December income. But with the payroll tax cut expiring, most workers are now paying more taxes, and taking home smaller paychecks.

News **03/02/13** **6pm** **: 30**

There are many people in the Pioneer Valley who need a job. And Six Flags New England in Agawam has three thousand seasonal jobs to fill. This was the second day of the six flags job fair. Most of the job applicants are in their teens or early 20s. Applicants told 22News why they applied.

News **03/06/13** **11pm** **: 30**

Northampton's superintendent of schools is proposing layoffs to close a one point two million dollar budget gap. Superintendent of Schools Brian Salzer offered several recommendations to save money next fiscal year. They include eliminating 14 full time teaching positions eight at the high school and elementary school and six special education positions.

News **03/06/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Hundreds of people in Westfield were all dressed up with resumes in hand today hoping to further their careers in some way. Today was the 5th annual graduate school, internship and career fair at Westfield State University. About 78 employers were there to talk about their business and the services they have to offer. Police departments were trying to recruit, even 22News had a table, and we had a lot of people talk to us about breaking into the broadcasting business. Students from Westfield, surrounding schools and the public were invited to participate. It provided an opportunity for job seekers to ask questions about jobs, internships, even graduate programs. The chance to get one-on-one time was not only a good thing for students; employers say they've had success at this event in the past.

News **03/06/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Early education workers are some of the lowest paid public employees in Massachusetts. Springfield Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera is asking House Speaker Robert DeLeo to invest \$25 million dollars in early education workers. Early education workers earn about \$24,000 dollars annually. Coakley-Rivera co-wrote a letter to the House Speaker in support of boosting early educator salaries to about \$25,000 dollar a year. State lawmakers say the

lack of raises have made it difficult for early education programs to keep their best educators. State lawmakers are also asking legislative leaders to increase access to early education. As there are currently about 54,000 children on waiting lists across Massachusetts.

News **03/07/13** **12pm** **: 30**

The Massachusetts unemployment rate held steady at 6.7% in January while the state added more than 16-thousand new jobs during the month. That's according to the latest monthly report from the state office of Labor and Workforce Development which also released revised federal numbers that show the state gained more jobs in 2011 and 2012 than previously estimated. The Massachusetts jobless rate remains more than one percentage point below the national rate which stood at 7.9% in January.

News **03/08/13** **5:30pm** **: 30**

State statistics show no movement in January unemployment numbers. According to the state's Labor office, the 6.7% unemployment rate in Massachusetts did not budge from December to January. But figures show Massachusetts employers did add more than 16,000 jobs in January. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics also found that Massachusetts added more than 32,000 jobs than previously estimated for 2011 and 2012. State lawmakers say the numbers are evidence that Massachusetts is slowly recovering from a weak economy. The national unemployment rate is 7.9%. The revised numbers show that Massachusetts employers added nearly 93,000 jobs overall in 2011 and 2012.

News **03/12/13** **12pm** **: 30**

U.S. employers advertised more job openings in January which suggest hiring will remain healthy in the coming months. The Labor Department says job openings rose 2.2% in January from December to 3.69 million. Openings had fallen nearly 5% in December. And there were other good signs too, employers laid off fewer workers in the month of January while the number of Americans quitting their jobs rose to the highest point in four years. That's promising because people usually quit when they have another job so more quitting suggests it is easier to find work.

News **03/14/13** **6pm** **: 30**

Penn National Gaming continued to stress that 9 out of 10 people it hires will be from Springfield. Penn National's Vice President for Public Affairs said their project would create 2400 permanent jobs, 90% for Springfield residents. To achieve that goal, Penn National will have small job fairs and work with community colleges to hold specialized training sessions, among other things. If Penn National can't meet that goal of 90%, it will consult with the city before exploring surrounding communities.

News **03/20/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Some American International College alumni are paying it forward. The graduates returned to the campus today to take part in a workshop that helps current college seniors prepare for the job market. Each of today's panelists shared their top tips of what not to do at an interview or job fair. They also suggested making sure your social media accounts are potential-employer appropriate.

News **03/21/13** **5pm** **: 30**

Numbers from the bureau of labor statistics show that Massachusetts now has more jobs than right before the recession. Five of the ten sectors added jobs in February with the largest gain in Professional, scientific and business services.

Some local businesses say they've added jobs as well.

News **03/21/13** **12pm** **: 30**

The number of people seeking unemployment aid barely changed last week and the average over the past month fell to a fresh five-year low. A decline in layoffs is helping strengthen the job market. The Labor Department says weekly unemployment benefit applications rose just 2,000 to 336,000. A steady decline in unemployment claims signals companies are laying off fewer workers.